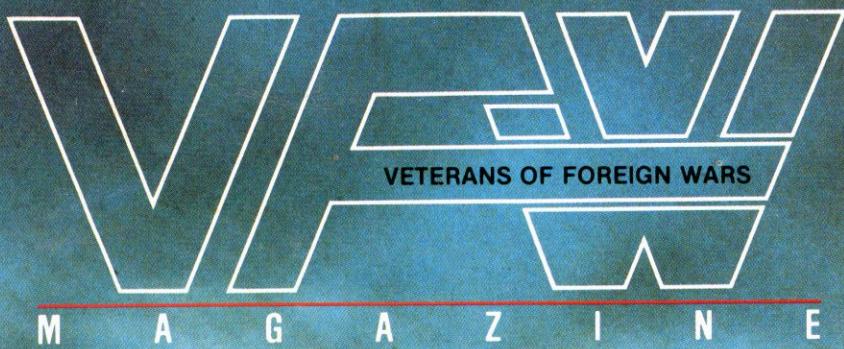


NOVEMBER 1985

A large, atmospheric photograph of a sunset or sunrise dominates the background. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright, glowing horizon line. The colors transition from deep reds and oranges at the bottom to darker blues and purples at the top.

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FEATURES

Pershings, a Family of Warriors.
James K. Anderson. Three generations in succession served their country.

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Nam Nomads. A transportation company in Vietnam sees combat at close range.

When Torpedoes Struck. Dan B. McCarthy. The story of the *Tuscania*, a troopship sunk during World War I.

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Halley's Comet. Cyril J. O'Brien. Every 76 years, this phenomenon occurs, flashing in the sky and causing some to worry.



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Cover: The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier assumes a ghostly presence at Arlington National Cemetery as dawn begins to break and silhouettes the sentry. (Defense Department Photo.)

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OF THE UNITED STATES**

Published monthly except July

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- To insure the national security through maximum military strength
- To speed the rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
- To assist the widows and orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
- To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live

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Freedom Means Veterans



By John S. Staum
VFW Commander-in-Chief

SINCE THE NATION'S FOUNDING, every generation has been called upon to serve the country, either to defend freedom or to extend it, and Veterans Day is an appropriate occasion to remember this fact.

Starting with Lexington and Concord, the United States has sustained a total of 2,476,186 casualties as

Americans have gone forth to do battle with their nation's enemies.

Of these 2,476,186, nearly 600,000 were killed in action while another 465,899 died from other causes.

In these wars—whether declared or not—the United States raised forces totalling 38,741,199, and as many as an estimated 1,500,000 served the Confederacy during the Civil War.

These figures do not take into account those who served in more than one war, those who fought in the various Indian wars that flared on the frontier or those who took part in the expeditions and campaigns the nation's Armed Forces conducted in between.

Nor do bare statistics reveal the hardships the vast majority of the these more than 38 million men and

women endured to make certain that the United States would continue as a beacon of hope to all mankind.

They cannot reflect the sensation of a bullet cracking over your head. They cannot duplicate the shriek of incoming artillery. They cannot describe months in a steaming tropical jungle. They cannot reproduce the dreadful cold of a winter on the Belgian-German border or in North Korea, the agony of trying to survive in salt water in hopes of rescue after your ship has been sunk or leaping from a flaming aircraft in the face of anti-aircraft fire.

Only those who have experienced the rigors of war, as we in the Veterans of Foreign Wars have, can appreciate what those more than 38 million Americans went through.

Staum Welcomed Home

It was a gala time in Minneapolis when nearly a thousand well-wishers welcomed Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum home after his election at the end of the 86th National Convention in Dallas.

The weekend celebrations began with a buffet dinner Friday, Aug. 30, at his home Post 9625 in Coon Rapids. Commander Pat Bohmer, of the Department of Minnesota, was master of ceremonies. Several gifts were presented to Staum and his wife Bernadette. They ranged from the serious to ones emphasizing his least favorite food, green beans, and a prototype Ladies Auxiliary "uniform."

Sen. David F. Durenberger (Minn.), who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee, was the principal speaker at the homecoming banquet at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Saturday night, Aug. 31.

He warned against the danger of spreading national security commitments too thinly and noted the great reliance placed on the initiative of members of the Armed Forces.

The author of "Neither Madmen nor Messiahs," a treatise on global intelligence, Durenberger said the nation cannot be a global policeman or match the Soviets man for man, but it must rely on high technology. Soviet theft of U.S. technology, however, has put it on a nearly equal footing with the U.S. in quality of equipment, he added.

Durenberger said intelligence is fundamental to national security but Congress is at its worst when it attempts to run a program, instead of acting as a board of directors. He emphasized that Congress must work with national intelligence agencies to develop longterm strategies.

"We can never again be found in

the dark like Pearl Harbor and Korea," he said.

Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (Minn.) was a surprise visitor to the banquet. Other guests included members of Staum's family, Ladies Auxiliary National President Lucile Suchina, of Houston, Texas, and a former Minnesota governor, Karl Rolvaag, whose father, O.E. Rolvaag, was the noted Norwegian-American author who taught Norwegian for several years at St. Olaf College, Staum's alma mater. Master of ceremonies and Past Commander-in-Chief Robert E. Hansen read a congratulatory letter from President and Mrs. Reagan.

National Inspector Gen. Robert Eliason was chairman of the homecoming event.

Golf tournament winners included Past National Council Member James Thiel and Gloria LaDue.

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Each Veterans Day our thoughts turn to the service we have rendered, and our memories return to those times when we were much younger, so much so that we probably gave little thought to abstract concepts of freedom, democracy or a republican form of government.

It was enough that those we were serving with could depend on us and we on them. Regardless of how insignificant it may have seemed then, everything we did contributed to ultimate victory. Teamwork, co-operation and the willingness to sacrifice—to think of others rather than ourselves—made the difference.

Most of us have been out of the service for a long time now, and for many Americans who never wore their country's uniform, what we did is fading from memory. Often veterans are chided for "living in the past" or "refighting the war." We are all familiar with such comments, and probably we all made them ourselves about our fathers or grandfathers. But then we did not realize until it came our turn to serve that those years or months would constitute the high point of our lives—regardless of any future success.

The 28 million veterans now living amount to less than 10% of the American population, but with their families—even unto the fourth or fifth generation—they account for perhaps half of all this country's inhabitants.

Not surprisingly, World War II veterans make up the largest number, followed by those who served during the Vietnam Era and Korea. The ranks of World War I veterans, who gave us our first Armistice Day, the predecessor of Veterans Day, are rapidly thinning. It is unlikely

continued on page 7

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Liked September Issue

It was with interest that the members of the Buddy Egnew Post 4826 of Hooperston, Ill., read the four feature articles in the September issue.

These articles are rich with history. The factual article, "An Altar of Peace," begins with this paragraph: "World War II began on a ship and finally ended on a ship six years and one day later."

World War II began for Hooperston on a ship. Buddy Egnew for whom this Post is named, was aboard the USS Arizona on that tragic morning of Dec. 7, 1941.

The adjutant of this Post was on board the USS Alabama just outside Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945, at the time the formal signing was taking place to end this war.

The American officers pictured in this article are in uniform without ties. This was at the specific request of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. This was done, as I recall, to embarrass the Japanese signers who were dressed in formal attire.

In the article by Mark Clutter, "Japan's Surrender: I Was There," he mentions how the American POWs, after being rescued from the Japanese prisons, were ready to board trains and showed their magnificent character by giving their canned goods, K-rations and candy bars to the hungry Japanese women and children huddled along the walls of the train station.

As a suggestion, if it were possible, I would like to see these articles made available to our American high schools.

Again, to the editors and authors, it is with pride Buddy Egnew Post 4826 salutes the VFW Magazine for a job well done.—John Haugher, Adjutant Buddy Egnew Post 4826, Hooperston, Ill. 60942.

Recalls WWII Prisoners

As a Navy nurse on the hospital ship Haven, I arrived in Nagasaki on Sept. 11, 1945, and Allied ex-prisoners of war, some of them suffering

from the effects of the atomic blast, were brought on board. Some 19,000 former prisoners were screened in Nagasaki by the staff of the Haven. They came by train from the camps. I certainly enjoyed reading the articles in the magazine on the Japanese surrender.—*Lt. Cdr. Loretta O'Connell Gleason, USNR (Ret.), 1615 Criteenden Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14623.*

Minesweepers Were in Toyko Bay

The September issue was outstanding to say the least, but a few sentences should have been devoted to the very first ships to enter Tokyo Bay at the end, the minesweepers. The USS Revenge (AM 110) was the very first ship there on "Love Day," Aug. 28, 1945, followed by the minesweepers USS Token, USS Tumult and USS Pochard. Behind them were USS Pickett and 12 YMSs, 362, 177, 343, 276, 390, 415, 467, 268, 426, 371 and 441 and PGM 32. Later in the morning, we were joined by DMSs USS Ellingson, Hambeton and Fraser.—*John C. Villar, 1830 Morningside Drive, Pensacola, Fla. 32503.*

11th Airborne

Your mention of the 1st Cavalry Division unloading in Japan while the surrender was taking place on board the Missouri ("Altar of Peace," September) may very well be correct. However, you failed to mention that our 11th Airborne Division Band was already on hand to greet them by playing "The Old Grey Mare." Not only had we been at Atsugi several days before the 1st Cavalry appeared but members of my regiment, the 511th Parachute Infantry, were chosen for Gen. MacArthur's Honor Guard.—*James T. Wentink, 904 E. Evergreen, Wheaton, Ill. 60187.*

(Note: Reference to the 1st Cavalry Division was made because the thrust of "Altar of Peace" was with events surrounding Japan's surrender in Tokyo Bay, not to slight the

11th Airborne Division. The 11th was the first ground force unit to arrive as occupation troops in Japan. One-hundred-fifty 5th Air Force technicians who arrived at Atsugi Aug. 28, 1945, with advance communications and airfield equipment to prepare the landing field for the 11th are credited with being the very first Allied occupation troops of any kind in Japan. The day before, however, a pilot from the Yorktown made an unauthorized landing at Atsugi and ordered the Japanese to paint a sign, "Welcome to the U.S. Army from Third Fleet." Ironically, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) that fought in Vietnam was formed from the combined 11th and 2nd Infantry Divisions at Ft. Benning, effected by a simple exchange of flags between the 1st, then in Korea, and the latter two.)

Salutes Coast Guard and Gliders

Reading your stories in the August issue about the Coast Guard and glider pilots did my heart good. I salute the Coast Guard not only for what they did at Normandy, but at Salerno, Sicily and North Africa. I know. I was there as an amphibious engineer. In Normandy, after we landed, the gliders came across our beaches. What a sight. I'll never forget. They were very brave men in those gliders. They couldn't climb out once in descending pattern, not like the fighter pilots, who had plenty of room. That took lots of guts. My hat is off to them.

Thanks to Ed Keys and Jack Sullivan for their stories.—*Gus Johonson, 59 Martin St., Keene, N.H. 03431.*

Explains Funeral Incident

In reply to the letter from Richard J. Scesny (August) concerning the lack of a military funeral for retired Coast Guard Chief Boatswain's Mate Charles Albert Lewis, this explana-

that many of them are under 85. Few veterans of the Spanish-American War remain, but they will be remembered as the ones who made the United States a world power and formed the organizations that became the VFW.

For us in the VFW, the experience of the veterans of that long ago period of 1898 was an invaluable lesson. They found that unless veterans banded together they could not accomplish anything in the way of compensation, medical assistance, rehabilitation or pensions.

Demonstrated so often in wartime, concerted action—teamwork—has been fundamental to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in every aspect of the organization's work. This applies to the array of programs the VFW sponsors to improve our communities just as it does to the VFW's constant striving to widen and to better veterans' rights and entitlements. Two basic VFW tenets are that veterans' service does not end when uniforms are exchanged for mufti and that Congress created veterans by sending youths off to war in the name of the American people and therefore bears the responsibility for assisting them afterward.

Further, having served the nation, veterans have the responsibility of seeing to it that national defense remains the number one priority of those who set national policy. Too often needless deaths have been caused by inadequate defenses and the time needed to recover from the initial setbacks. Pearl Harbor and the opening days of the Korean War are two instances of this.

Veterans have learned, to the personal sorrow of many, that the surest way to avoid war is to be so strong that no aggressor will dare strike the first blow.

Veterans Day is a time to ponder these truths. It is a time to remember the suffering so many underwent to preserve the United States. It is a time to reflect on the selflessness service to one's nation and people entails.

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Stop Them with a Few Words

This book explains the various ways that people will try to bait you and then it tells you how to stop them with a few carefully chosen words. It trains you to defend yourself with a simple eloquence that will subdue your verbal opponents. And it shows you how and when to use blunt honesty, agreement, humor, flattery, and distraction.

Keep Cool During Arguments

The Gentle Art of Verbal Self-Defense also helps you avoid the self-defeating, overly emotional attitudes that many people assume during arguments. Once you've read this book, you'll never again lose an argument by being sullen, uncontrollably angry, perversely defensive, or apologetic. You'll have gained enough savvy not to be thrown by hostile remarks.

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The Gentle Art of Verbal Self-Defense, originally \$12.95, now costs only \$6.95. And, should you want to return the book, you can do so and have your money refunded with no questions asked.

About the Author

Psycholinguist Suzette Haden Elgin has presented her innovative self-defense principles in a variety of formats. She has given workshops and seminars all over the U.S., including verbal self-defense sessions for doctors, lawyers, and other professionals. Dr. Elgin has also created a self-defense tape and a training manual for people who teach her self-defense techniques.

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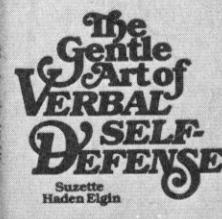
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continued from page 6

tion is in order.

On April 15, 1985, Euel Lambert called the Coast Guard District Office in New Orleans to request a military funeral in Detroit for his brother-in-law. A message was sent from New Orleans to the Coast Guard District Office in Cleveland late on April 16. On April 17 the Cleveland office notified Coast Guard Base Detroit. Unfortunately, due to miscommunications, Coast Guard Base Detroit believed the funeral was to take place on April 23, and therefore was not prepared to provide the honor guard on April 18.

The Coast Guard is firmly committed to a policy of honoring requests for military funerals, and we live up to that commitment quite frequently. For example, last year Coast Guard personnel participated in about 250 military funerals for active duty and retired Coast Guard personnel alone. Additionally, we participated in many funerals honoring members of other Armed Forces. The foregoing is offered not as a defensive statement, but only as evidence to reassure you that the Coast Guard has not abandoned the traditions so proudly cherished by CPO Lewis.

Considering his age, length and scope of service, it is hard to conceive of anyone more richly deserving of the honor of a full military funeral than CPO Lewis. We deeply regret this most unfortunate oversight.—*R.R. Harber, Chief, Retired Military Affairs Branch, Personnel Services Division by direction of the Commandant, U.S.C.G.*

Likes Cranston

Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office, is on target in the September VFW Washington Action Reporter in his article, "Sen. Cranston Is a Worker for Vets." He reinforces my admiration and respect for the Senator. It is too bad that more Senators do not share Cranston's views. In the article, "Finally, the Agent Orange Studies

Begin," the key word is "finally." AIDS seems to dominate the headlines. In the May 22, 1984, Congressional Record, Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., concentrated on the Americans who served on the ground in Vietnam. I did participate in Ranch Hand from high up safely inside AC-47s and C-130s. I have been thoroughly examined by the VA and results have been negative. My comrades on the ground have not been so lucky.—*Thomas W. Young, 830 W. Amsden St., Denison, Texas.*

Restore May 30 as Memorial Day

Memorial Day and Veterans Day were two holidays that fell victim to the Monday holiday bill Congress passed in 1971. It was historical to observe Armistice Day on the 11th month, 11th day, and the 11th hour. But because of pressure by all the service organizations, Armistice Day (Veterans Day) was restored to where it belongs — Nov. 11 — back in 1978. This same pressure should be used for Memorial Day.—*Alex Pall, 2682 Dal Drive, Norton, Ohio 44203.*

Atomic Veterans

I am attempting to compile a list of men's names and the ailments they have as a result of "Crossroads" atomic tests Alpha and Baker in July, 1946, not only to themselves, but also their families.

I hope the men involved will contact me with a view to gain recognition and eventually some form of compensation.—*Philip Caminiti, 3 S.W. 13th St., Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33441*

Korean War Records

As Service Officer for Post 3347, I review many discharges and other service-related documents. When I compare Korean War veterans' papers to those of veterans of other wars, I find a lack of basic information that could be used to help

file claims.

My research shows the following: the infantryman without the Combat Infantry Badge; the wounded veteran, but no Purple Heart; the Purple Heart, but no medical history of it; the veteran with hundreds of air hours, but no Air Medal; no campaign medals, but years of combat service, and the complete absence of military schools, but trained to fight the war.

These reflect a great injustice to these veterans and the difference of hours, weeks, months and years when you try to file a claim. This may seem true of other war veterans, but it doesn't compare to the Korean War veterans.

This Vietnam veteran takes his hat off to the Korean War veteran and suggests you get with your Post Service Officer to help you get your documents in order.—*Raymond D. Brindley, Box 922, Hurley, N.M. 88043.*

Vets Need Help

"If we have another war . . . who's gonna fight?"

This remark was made by a patient at the VA Medical Center, Erie, Pa., and it seems to voice the feelings of most of the patients there.

The administration has taken the pride and honor away from our veterans. It is slowly turning the center into a "staff hospital." Everything is designed for the "upper echelon," the executives, and nothing has been left for the veterans.

It's time the community affairs directors talked to their members and their auxiliaries, take an interest in our vets, who were willing to face death and injury in Japan, Germany, Korea and Vietnam. See if they are willing to sacrifice one night a month to entertain people who sacrificed many months keeping our country free of oppression and Communism.—*Richard L. Peters, Commander, Post 264, Corry, Pa. 16407*

Auxiliary Convention Highlights

After the Joint Opening Session, the Ladies Auxiliary Convention sessions were held at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas where Mrs. Lucile Suchina, of Houston, Texas, was elected National President to suc-



**Lucile Suchina
1985-86 Auxiliary President**

ceed Glenneta Vogelsang, of Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Others elected were Rosemary Mazer, of East Brunswick, N.J., Senior Vice President; Joan Katkus, of Wasilla, Alaska, Junior Vice President; Glenn Grossman, of Kansas

City, Mo., Secretary-Treasurer; Mona Longly, of Lexington, Neb., Chaplain; Alice Hutto, of Swansea, S.C., Conductress; and Mable Love, Clarks Summit, Pa., Guard.

President Vogelsang reported the Auxiliary's membership for 1984-85 reached 720,591, a gain of 20,000.

The Cancer Aid and Research program contributions reached the \$2.5 million mark for the first time and Auxiliary members contributed \$26 million and volunteered 19 million hours on programs benefiting communities.

Abby Dalton, of "Falcon Crest," accepted \$1,000 for the Arthritis Foundation and the Serve America Award.

Paul Gonzales, 1984 Olympic Gold Medal winning flyweight boxer, who overcame cancer, received \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society. Todd Bizzell, accepted \$10,000 for St. Jude Hospital, where he has undergone treatment for Hodgkin's disease since 1975. He and his wife Tori also received a surprise \$2,000 for themselves.

Alice Renick, the Unsung Heroine of 1985, a nurse from Metuchen, N.J., related her experiences with

cancer-stricken children. Eileen Fulton, of "As the World Turns," received the Caring American Award for her work with children and the disabled and \$1,000 for the Harvard Facial Pain Research Fund.

A cancer research grant of \$5,000 was presented to the University of Texas Health Center Science Center at Houston.

Home Seals' Goal Reached

A surge in year-end giving has resulted in attainment of the VFW National Home's 1984-85 Seals' goal of \$920,000, according to an announcement by Dr. Ted Wilson III, the Home's executive director.

"We have had a tremendous response to our recent plea for help," he said. "The money received as of Feb. 22 actually exceeds what we had originally budgeted."

Wilson said the additional money will help to take up some of the slack in areas of the Home's operation.

"Farm crops were not good last year because of our lack of rain," he said. "Also, recent rises in postal and telephone rates are biting big chunks

continued on page 14

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LEGISLATIVE

Recent Testimony: Before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Education, Training, and Employment, the VFW testified in an oversight capacity regarding the Veterans Administration Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Special emphasis was placed on evaluation of the program's effectiveness in assisting service connected disabled veterans in finding long-term meaningful employment.

The program has been, in the VFW view, well managed and has accomplished much toward assisting service connected disabled veterans lead meaningful and productive lives. Although the VFW has found VA personnel extremely competent in the counseling and psychological aspects of the program, the handling of its multiplicity of employment-related aspects could well stand some fine tuning.

The staff of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department has been shrunk since 1982 from a total of 651 to 602. With this reduction has come an increased caseload for vocational rehabilitation specialists.

As with any large program, there is a problem with training. The vocational rehabilitation specialist at the local level has not received adequate training in the employment area or appropriate guidance to clarify individual eligibility. The VFW believes strongly that this essential area of staff training needs to be much improved.

Vocational Rehabilitation Department personnel have begun an aggressive outreach program. They have written to every disabled veteran who was certified under the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act advising of benefits under the program. It is estimated that if this program is successful, it will cut at least one year off the rehabilitation process, and the VFW applauds this positive action.

Before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, the VFW made clear its views on the abhorrent fraud perpetuated on veterans by certain unscrupulous members of the manufactured housing industry.

Some mobile home manufacturers and dealers have defrauded thousands of unsuspecting veterans by inflating invoices for mobile homes to be sold to veterans. Later these manufacturers returned some of the money paid for the homes to dealers as kickbacks after VA financing was completed. In another scheme, the price of a mobile home was inflated by adding the cost of non-existent accessories—such as washing machines, dryers and air conditioners—to the invoices submitted to the VA in order to obtain a guaranteed loan. Thus, both the veteran and the VA are cheated out of much needed money.

The VFW is appalled by these activities and adamant in its insistence that those responsible be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, and proper compensation and restitution be made to all veterans

who have been victimized and to the VA itself.

The VFW is also of the opinion that steps to prevent such abuse are long overdue and should be initiated immediately. It may be late, but it is certainly not too late to ensure that veterans purchasing manufactured homes are never again taken advantage of in this way.

At the same hearing, the VFW supported legislation introduced by Donald K. Sundquist (Tenn.) (H.R. 2801) which would establish a VA discounted home sales program for veterans who are buying their first home.

Before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee with respect to pending Senate bills, one House-passed bill, several Administration draft bills and an Administration proposal not yet formally submitted. This issue-packed hearing addressed an increase in compensation and DIC to become effective next month; enhancement and curtailment of certain educational benefits; the VA's Home Loan Guaranty Program; mortgage insurance for severely disabled veterans; the national cemetery system to include flat and upright grave markers; the corpus of estates of incompetent veterans within VA or other federal facilities and the collocation of Veterans Administration Regional Offices on the grounds of VA medical centers.

In summation, the VFW stated:

That it expects the cost-of-living increase for compensation and DIC to be commensurate with the Consumer Price Index and under no circumstances less than that granted beneficiaries under any other entitlement program.

That it supports an open national cemetery in every state.

That by priority goal, it believes it is imperative that at least one regional office continue to be maintained in each state and that it be capable of administering claim files and have sufficient professional staff to adjudicate claims.

That it seeks the introduction and enactment of legislation that will serve to maintain the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program as the most viable and desirable means of home financing.

SERVICE

VA Incentives for Hiring Disabled Vets:

Despite intensive placement efforts, some well-trained disabled veterans may not be able to find work, VA Administrator Harry N. Walters says. Reason often is a lack of work experience, an employer's special training needs or the disability. VA will offer special incentives to employers hiring such disabled veterans. This is permitted under

NEWS AFFECTING YOU

special provisions of the VA's vocational rehabilitation program. Payments can cover up to nine months of work experience or on-the-job training to enable the veteran to adjust to the work and stay employed. Under a written agreement with the employer, the VA will pay for direct expenses that result from hiring the veteran. The expenses are not to exceed half of the wage paid to other workers on the same or similar jobs. Only private concerns or non-profit organizations are eligible for the program. Federal, state and local agencies are not included. Employers interested in the program should contact the vocational and rehabilitation counseling officer at the nearest VA regional office.

Veteran Job Priorities: VFW concern is that veterans employment and training programs are bearing too large a share of the burden of deficit reduction. Some 36,000 Vietnam Era and Korean veterans have been placed in jobs under the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act of 1983, and 122,000 jobs slots have been created. The program has been extremely cost-effective. But veteran participation was allowed to expire last February while that of employers ended Sept. 1. The House has advanced HR 1408 that would continue the program, but the Senate has advanced S 1671 that would extend it only to July 1, 1986. The Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program found jobs for 29,000 veterans in FY 1984. Currently, it is tied to the proposed tax reform bill, but the program is to die Dec. 31, 1985. The Job Training Partnership Act Title IIa and Title III do not provide preferential services for veterans. Title IVc, funded by a formula dictated by law, is grossly underfinanced at \$7.5 million as a national veterans' employment program.

SECURITY

America's National Security Problems: The recent wave of arrests of Americans spying for the Soviet Union has pointed up the concern U.S. intelligence officials have had that the Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies have been carrying on an extensive intelligence-collecting program aimed at narrowing the technology gap. But a new evaluation has shown the effort to be more massive and successful than thought. One phase of the effort is controlled by the Military Industrial Commission of the Soviet Council of Ministers, equivalent of the presidential cabinet in the U.S. The commission works through the KGB and GRU, military intelligence. It seeks one-

of-a-kind military and civilian hardware that has military applications as well as documents, blueprints, product samples and testing equipment. This accounts for much of the espionage against defense contractors and manufacturers. Examples of success are increased accuracy of Soviet ballistic missiles, a space shuttle that is a virtual duplicate of the U.S. version and a look-down radar that enables Soviet fighter planes to locate U.S. aircraft flying close to the earth to avoid detection. Instances of stolen defense secrets total 3,500. Second Soviet effort is to acquire large numbers of manufacturing and testing equipment for direct use in Soviet production lines. It diverts the equipment from legitimate trading companies to Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries. Greedy Western traders use false export licenses, deceptive equipment descriptions, dummy firms and smugglers aided by Soviet intelligence. The Soviets have obtained thousands of pieces of equipment needed to set up sophisticated production lines. Most diversions have been through Europe, but Asia has been growing as a new route. More than 300 dummy companies have been set up for the purpose, 75 by one West German alone.

Security Solutions: Several steps are being taken or are under study to help solve the national security problem. Over the past several years the Administration has been spending more money on counterintelligence. Installation of more scrambler telephones to prevent Soviet eavesdropping from its new embassy atop Washington's highest hill awaits Congressional funding. A 10% cutback in the 4.3 million security clearances held by defense workers and contractors has been proposed by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Navy Secretary John Lehman has cut clearances by 230,000. Congress has proposed legislation to expand use of lie detectors. It would allow the Pentagon to conduct nearly 11,000 tests on government officials and contractors who have access to the most sensitive information. A July report says 11 out of 22 who failed the lie detector test admitted to being foreign agents, and four more said relatives or associates were espionage agents. The death penalty for spies may soon be enacted. Other Congressmen are calling for fewer Communist-bloc diplomats to be stationed in U.S. than the approximately 2,600 here already in embassies, consulates and the UN. Because of Soviet espionage and thefts of U.S. and Western technology, the Soviet navy may be preparing a breakthrough in submarine capability—advances in silencing, propulsion and weaponry.

continued from page 9

out of our budget."

He expressed his appreciation for the sacrifices made by VFW and Auxiliary members to perpetuate the VFW National Home.

"As we mark our 60th year of love, care and education for veterans' children and families, we gain a new perspective on how we are helping those in need to get a firm grip on their lives and what they can achieve.

"Thanks to the warm, caring members of the VFW and Auxiliary, we will continue to provide the valuable services that are our specialty."

Life Membership Record

A record number of new Life Memberships in the VFW National Home were received and processed in the month of April, as over 1,100 comrades and sisters became "stockholders" in this child care facility.

In addition, a record number of awards were issued to Posts and/or Auxiliaries for participation in the program.

In return for the \$25 contribution for a Life Membership, each new member receives a certificate, a wallet card and the right to vote annually for trustees and any proposed by-law changes.

Since this year marked the National Home's 60th anniversary, it is appropriate that Life Memberships are on the upswing. The increasing number of new members shows the growing support for the National Home felt by comrades and sisters throughout the country. "At a time when the cost of providing top quality care to children and families is rising dramatically, this support is especially appreciated," said Dr. Ted Wilson, Executive Director.

Fight Child Abuse

Oct. 26 was Public Awareness Day for Kidnapped and Exploited Children proclaimed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Purolator Products Co., which have joined forces

to distribute identification and informational packets on the problem.

Approximately 3,500 Purolator distributors and 10,000 VFW Posts across the nation combined with local law enforcement agencies to promote and conduct fingerprinting and personal information programs. Parents can then take the completed data home for filing.

The VFW entered the campaign by virtue of a resolution passed during its 1984 National Convention calling for the organization to combat child abuse and exploitation.

Posts and Auxiliaries reporting a completed child identification program to National Headquarters will receive credit for community activities, safety and youth projects, but they should be reported under the "other youth activities" portion of the National Programs Report Form.

New "Taps Man" Address

VFW members, Posts or other units interested in obtaining tapes of "Taps" and the firing squad made at the funeral of President John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery for Veterans Day or Memorial Day ceremonies may obtain them at no cost except for postage and handling from George Gregory, 2985 Nightengale, Auburn Heights, Mich. 48057. This is a new address. He was the subject of the article, "The 'Taps' Tapes Man" (November, 1984).

VA Doctors

"Based on what I've heard, I am satisfied with the VA's efforts to resolve questions about the qualifications of some of its health care personnel," said Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Montgomery made his comments Sept. 12 following a hearing to review the VA's procedures for verifying and monitoring its physicians' credentials.

Montgomery, concerned about

recent press accounts of a VA internal audit that has uncovered impairments or irregularities in the licenses of 87 agency physicians, said, "There is no cause for alarm among veterans who use VA medical facilities, but we will continue to keep a close eye on this matter."

The VA initiated the audit earlier this year by asking the Federation of State Medical Boards, the American Medical Association and the California State Board of Medical Quality Assurance to match the names of 46,335 physicians employed by the VA in 1983 and/or 1984 against information in their data banks. It was this review that identified the 87 license irregularities.

According to Dr. John W. Ditzler, the VA's chief medical director, of the 87 employees in question, 15 are no longer employed by the VA: "no records whatsoever" existed for six, 17 were fee-basis physicians (private physicians reimbursed by the VA for treating eligible veterans) and 49 are currently working for the VA.

Community Activities Winners

Two Posts have won Silver Awards of Excellence and four Posts and one District have received Bronze Awards of Merit for community activities, Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum has announced.

The silver awards went to Post 2111 and its Ladies Auxiliary, of Chula Vista, Calif., and Post 8537 and its Ladies Auxiliary, of Balch Springs, Texas.

The bronze awards were won by Post 1676, of Detroit Lakes, Minn.; Post 1896, of Jamaica, N.Y.; Post 9785, and its Ladies Auxiliary, of Eagle River, Alaska; Post 3866, of Oxnard, Calif., and Ohio's District 11 and its Ladies Auxiliary.

Post 2111 and Auxiliary raised more than \$9,000 for the Jerry Lewis muscular dystrophy telethon. Post 8537 and Auxiliary aided victims of a tornado that struck the area last December.

Post 1676 planned, funded and

erected a memorial honoring Becker County war dead and missing in action. Post 1896 was cited for a POW/MIA memorial service honoring a former Jamaica resident, S/Sgt. Herndon A. Bivens, listed as a Vietnam MIA. Post 9785 and Auxiliary supported a checkpoint during the Iditerod Trail Race for the past two years. Post 3866 conducted special Veterans Day observances last year that consisted of a 24-hour vigil during which area residents held the U.S. Flag in 30-minute watches and sponsored a POW/MIA recognition ceremony. District 11 and Auxiliary enlisted the support of 46 Posts and 34 Auxiliaries for the Easter Seal campaign last spring.

Staum congratulated all the winners for their work exemplifying the highest traditions of the VFW in community activities.

Developer Repays Vets

It wasn't the federal government who erected this major monument to U.S. veterans last Veterans Day, nor was it a state government.

Rather it was an Iraqi-born road-builder who barely escaped that nation alive when the socialist government took over.

"I came to this country without a dime," says Kevork S. Hovnanian, president of the K. Hovnanian Companies. "And, while I rebuilt my life here, I realized that without the U.S. veteran, we would all have nothing."

Hovnanian, who believes not nearly enough is done to honor the nation's veterans or to care for them properly, took action on his own. The result is one of the largest parks devoted to the memory of all veterans in the state of Florida. The park, created as a living monument, is no small matter.

In Palm Beach County, where property is often valued at more than \$40,000 an acre, Hovnanian donated 4.6 acres of land in Greenacres City. Then, as if that weren't enough, he added a \$250,000 worth of recrea-

continued on page 17

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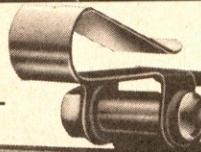
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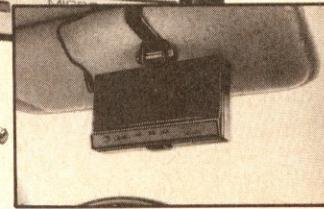
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NOW HEAR THIS

continued from page 15

tional facilities, including a baseball field with a two-story press box and bleachers, outdoor tennis courts, racquetball courts, a playground, jogging trails and hundreds of trees. Future plans call for a monument to be placed in the center of what is now Veterans Memorial Park in honor of all U.S. veterans, past and present.

"People in the United States don't realize the contributions these men and women have made, unless it is in time of war," says Hovnanian.

Army History of Vietnam War

The history of the Vietnam War, currently being published as a 20-volume series by the U.S. Army Center of Military History, will be the Army's official account that records the rising and falling tides of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

Included is the story of military decisions at the highest level that helped to shape the war's conduct and ultimate outcome and their effect on each American soldier. The series, to be published over a period of 10 years, includes the Army's activity from its early advisory years to 1973 when American troops left Vietnam.

Illustrations, maps, charts, and photographs are featured throughout the series. Each volume will include an index of names, military titles, geographic locations, major Army functions and commands down to the division level. Special books will focus on the massive logistical support of the war, its pioneering technologies, Vietnamization, intelligence and communications.

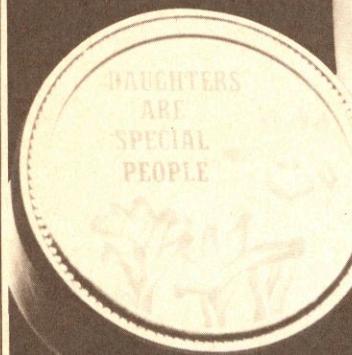
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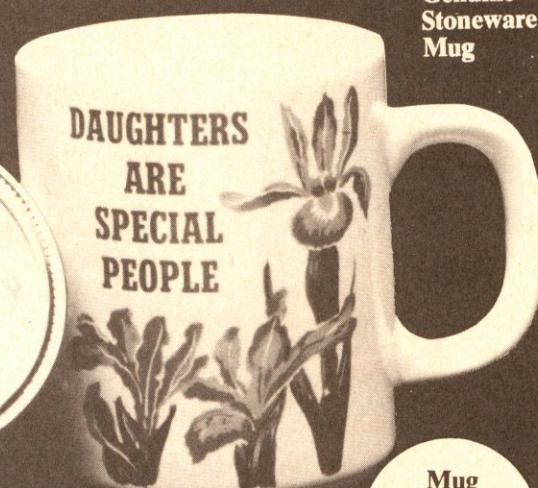
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Thanksgiving, Korea, 1950

By Col. E. Lloyd Murphy, USA (Ret.)

THANKSGIVING, 1950, WILL ALWAYS be, for me, unforgettable. My outfit, the 17th Regimental Combat Team, had reached the Yalu River dividing North Korea from Red China's Manchuria, just two days before Thanksgiving.

We had fought and marched and marched and fought nearly 150 miles though the tortuous mountains and over the frozen rivers from our late October landing on the east coast of North Korea near Iwon.

Probably no other American army had ever fought in such sustained cold temperatures which had faced us during that month. It was not only the coldest winter ever recorded in Korea, temperature records were also broken back home.

The temperature never got above zero degrees Fahrenheit during our 56 days on that fateful expedition.

We had fought a bitter battle in the 5,000-foot mountains south of us, after crossing the Ungi-gang river north of Pungsan on Nov. 14. The thermometer plunged to 26 degrees below zero during that merciless night on the mountain top.

Now, here we were. We had reached our objective, the town of Hysingin on the Yalu. General of the Army Douglas A. MacArthur had promised that when all units of the 8th Army and our own X Corps reached the Yalu the war would be ended and we'd be "home for Christmas."

We'd done our part, but no other American unit was to equal our feat of reaching the Yalu, the Manchurian border.

I am not even sure that we fully realized then that we were in a new war, one against Red China. We were no longer fighting just the remnants of the North Korean Army that had invaded South Korea five months earlier.

We certainly did not know until much later that some 600,000 Chi-

nese Peoples Liberation Army troops had come out of Manchuria, crossed the Yalu to our west and were now far below us, engaged in mortal combat with the U.S. 8th Army some 100 miles to our southwest and with the rest of our 7th Infantry Division and the 1st Marine Division around the now infamous Chosin Reservoir about 70 miles south of us.

It was also just dawning on us that we were cut off from resupply and communications to our rear. We had no mail for two weeks, no resupply of food or ammunition in more than a week. (In fact, the American press, 10 days later, was to report our regiment of some 4,000

Gen. MacArthur had promised that when all the units of the 8th Army and our own X Corps reached the Yalu the war would be ended and we'd be "home for Christmas." We'd done our part.

men as "lost," its fate unknown, a historical first for so large an American unit.)

But back to that Thanksgiving of 1950 and why it is unforgettable.

Our last hot meal had been on board ship before we disembarked 25 days earlier. We had survived on C rations and by living off the land. My platoon had butchered one emaciated cow; we had found rice and potatoes; once we had included a single skinny chicken in our chicken-rice soup for my American-Korean platoon of 45 men.

So there we were — on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 1950 — a dispirited bunch of tired, cold, young (all but four of us were 19 or younger, as I recall), somewhat hungry and a little scared, American soldiers — awaiting our fate, thinking we had been forgotten by our Army and the folks back home. Someone reminded us it was Thanksgiving, and we ate fried potatoes and C rations, as it continued to snow that Thursday morning.

But then the snow ceased, the clouds broke and there was open blue sky above us with the sun smiling on us with its warm countenance.

Then just before dusk, out of the southeast, came the sound of aircraft engines. These weren't the bombers and fighters of previous days. These were cargo planes, the USAF C-82s with the twin booms. They flew directly overhead and then the sky was filled with multi-colored parachutes blossoming out above us.

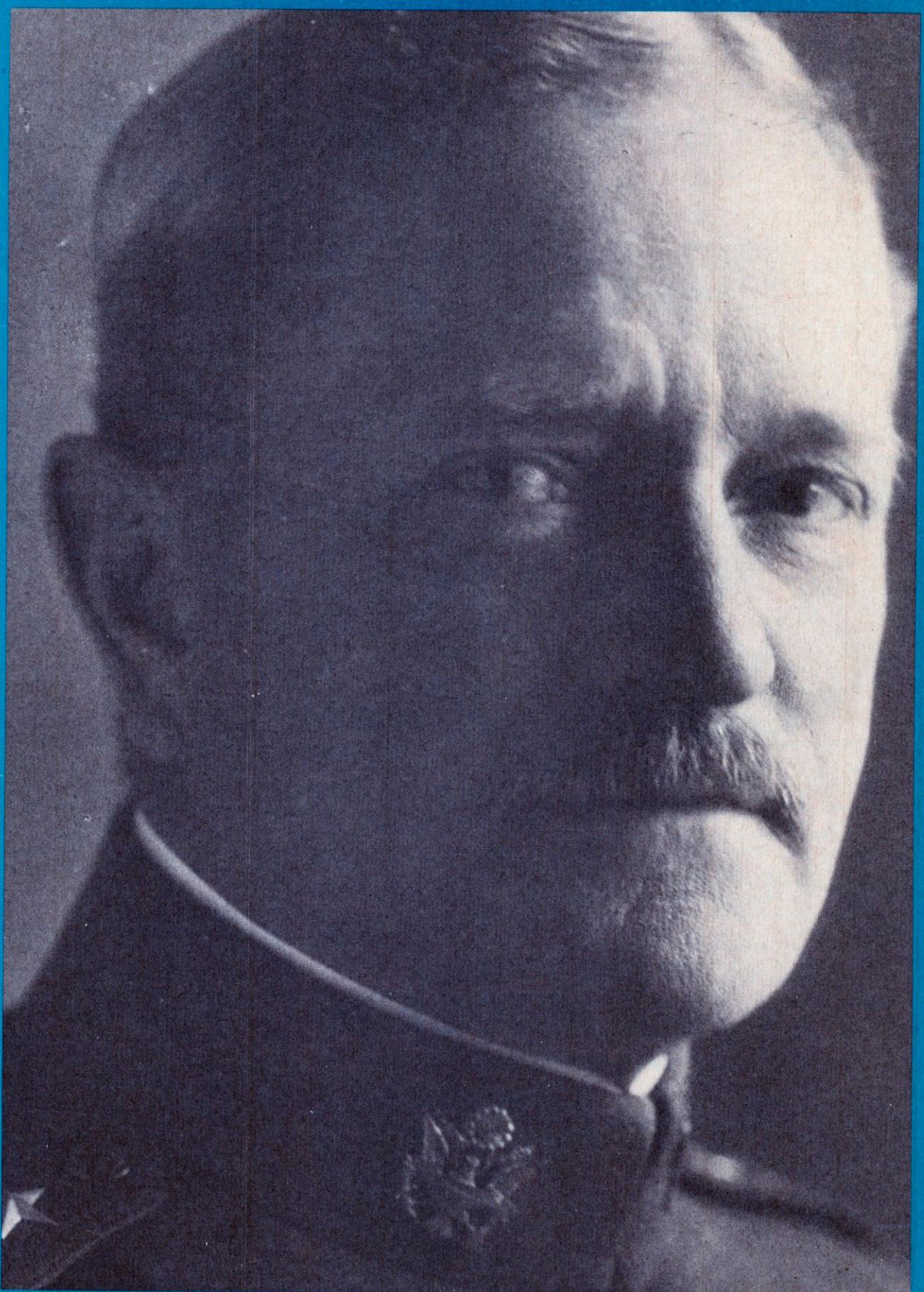
That night we read our mail from home.

It was the next day, the day after Thanksgiving, that we took turns from our fighting positions and trooped to the mess tent for what has to be our most unforgettable Thanksgiving — baked turkey and ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, corn, cranberry sauce, apples, oranges, nuts and, yes, both mincemeat and pumpkin pie with whipped cream!

Our world was right again! America was with us.

About the Author

Col. Murphy was a second lieutenant platoon leader in Company F, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, at the time of this Thanksgiving story. He retired in 1979 after 30 years of regular commissioned service.



T

WO SIMPLE TOMBSTONES

in Arlington National Cemetery, that final resting place of heroes, say it all.

As a national shrine, Arlington has come to symbolize for all Americans the meaning of service to country, defense of freedom and to this nation's ideals embodied in the annual observance of Veterans Day.

Arlington, like Veterans Day itself, provides an indissoluble bond linking all veterans, regardless of the war in which they fought, with one another.

On a grassy knoll at Arlington are two grave markers that unite a grandfather, whose first exposure to war was in the waning days of the Civil War, and his grandson, whose life was snuffed out two months after he arrived in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne. He was mortally wounded during Tet while seeking the remains of a dead comrade.

The grandfather is General of the Armies John J. (Black Jack) Pershing. The grandson is Lt. Richard W. Pershing. The markers are what the senior Pershing, who died at 87 in 1948, said he wanted over his grave—a "simple GI stone," even though his rank was held by only one other American, George Washington, for whom it was created by Congress. The knoll is appropriately called "Pershing Hill."

When he was killed in Vietnam on Feb. 17, 1968, Lt. Pershing was the third consecutive generation of Pershings to wear their nation's



A FAMILY OF

WARRIORS

BY JAMES K. ANDERSON

uniform. His father, F. Warren Pershing, enlisted in 1940 as a private and was discharged in 1945 as a major after service with the 1st Army, which his father commanded during World War I. Lt. Pershing's brother, John Warren Pershing, is a retired Army lieutenant colonel.

For the surviving remnant of the mighty American Expeditionary Force of at least two million Pershing commanded during World War I, more than any other American up to then, the name of their old commander carries with it memories of a ramrod-stiff officer, every bit a soldier.

A West Pointer, Pershing fought the Indians in the Southwest, the Spanish in Cuba, the Moros in the Philippines and led the Mexican border expedition against Pancho Villa just before the U.S. entered World War I. He had a far-reaching influence on American arms and thus contributed to the winning of World War II.

General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized this when he cabled Pershing at the end of the war:

"For the second time in less than 30 years, American arms are celebrating with their Allies victory in Europe. As commander of this second American Expeditionary Force, I should like to acknowledge to you, the leader of the first, our obligation for the part you have played in the present victory."



JOHN J.
PERSHING

MISSOURI
GENERAL OF
THE ARMIES
OF THE
UNITED STATES
SEPTEMBER 13 1860
JULY 15 1948



RICHARD W.
PERSHING

NEW YORK
2D LT CO A 502 INF
101 ABN DIV
VIETNAM
OCTOBER 25 1942
FEBRUARY 17 1968
PH

"A SIMPLE G.I. STONE."



EISENHOWER ATTR-

buted the successes in Europe from 1942 to war's end in 1945 to the skill of regimental, divisional, corps and army commanders molded in the military educational system Pershing reorganized and expanded.

"The stamp of Benning, Sill, Riley and Leavenworth is on every American battle in Europe and Africa," he continued. "The sons of the men you led in battle in 1918 have much for which to thank you."

Pershing's concern with military education was an outgrowth of his first love—teaching. Before going to West Point, he had studied at a teachers college in his native Missouri and taught briefly in his hometown of Laclede. After graduation from the military academy, he taught at the University of Nebraska.

Another World War II soldier who paid tribute to Pershing's greatness was Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. A captain, he was Pershing's aide on the Mexican border and the Western Front. Before leaving for North Africa in WWII, Patton visited Pershing at Walter Reed Hospital. He knelt and asked the old soldier for his blessing. Pershing, with his hand on Patton's head, said, "May God be with you, Georgie. Would that I could be with you also, but my spirit will march along beside yours."

Preceding pages: General of the Army John J. Pershing; Capt. John W. Pershing swears in his brother, newly-commissioned Lt. Richard W. Pershing, at Ft. Benning in August 1967. In February 1968, Richard was killed in Vietnam while serving with the 101st Airborne (Army photo). Opposite page, Gen. John J. Pershing as a West Point cadet senior captain in 1886 (Army photo).

"I can always pick a fighting man, and God knows there are few of them. I am happy they are sending you to the front at once. I like generals so bold that they are dangerous. I hope they give you a free hand."

Pershing would say of a man he liked, "He's a fighter." His highest praise was to repeat "a fighter" twice. A Patton exploit in Mexico drew this ultimate accolade: "This Patton boy! He's a real fighter." Patton's daughter, Ruth Totten, said her father thought Pershing "was the greatest American soldier and the greatest man he ever knew." The two corresponded after Patton went overseas, but Pershing stopped writing after the slapping incident that nearly wrecked Patton's career.

General of the Army Douglas A. MacArthur wrote that he would never forget the impression Pershing's bearing and appearance made on him when Pershing, then a cavalry captain, visited his father, Gen. Arthur MacArthur, no mean soldier himself. Later when Gen. Frederick Funston, slated to command the AEF, died, MacArthur, a major, was asked by Secretary of War Newton D. Baker whom the Army would choose as commander. MacArthur said Pershing would be a good choice. President Woodrow Wilson agreed.

Once MacArthur was upbraided by Pershing after a surprise inspection of the 42nd Division. A "disgrace" was Pershing's word for the unit, but a few years later when MacArthur became Army chief of staff, Pershing told President Hoover: "Well, Mr. President, he is one of my boys."

After service in Tokyo as military attache at the embassy and as an observer in the Russo-Japanese War, Capt. Pershing in September, 1906, was promoted by President Theodore Roosevelt to brigadier general, one of 14 in the Army. Critics noted that his father-in-law, Sen. Francis Warren, was chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, but ignored the fact that all the Army's general but one had recommended him. Also, his promotion over 862 senior officers was in the works before he married Frances Warren.

Historians agree that one of Pershing's greatest achievements was to resist British and French pressure to use American troops as virtual replacements for their own losses and to keep the AEF under American command. His orders when he was named AEF commander in May, 1917, required the Americans to remain separate and distinct. Minor exceptions were permitted, so he turned the all-black Provisional 93rd Division over to the French, and the French were delighted, for the unit was one of the best. Pressure from the Allies was heavy when Pershing had only 200,000 men in the winter of 1917-18.

German spring offensives increased Allied demands for integration of American troops with theirs, but Pershing sent his men in as divisions. At last, his four corps were sufficient to form the U.S. 1st Army on Aug. 10, 1918. His II Corps had been assigned to the British. the 1st Army, under his personal command, scored its first victory in the St. Mihiel offensive.

KILLED IN VIETNAM IN 1968

DURING THE TET OFFENSIVE, LT.

RICHARD W. PERSHING WAS THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE GENERATION OF PERSHINGS TO WEAR THEIR NATION'S UNIFORM.



continued on page 24

His staunch refusal to accede to Allied demands proved correct. It enhanced morale so vital to victory, especially at a time when the British and especially the French were beginning to despair of ever defeating the Germans. In addition, Pershing's theory of warfare emphasized fire and movement as opposed to static trench fighting. And open warfare was what finally made the difference.

Pershing first saw war in Laclede when Confederate guerrillas under Clifton Holtzclaw rode into town on June 18, 1864, and shot up the community. He was not four then, but he never forgot the experience.

The origin of his nickname, "Black Jack," is unclear. Some contend it stemmed from his command of a troop of the black 10th Cavalry in Cuba at San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War. Another explanation is that he taught in a black school at Laclede after studying at Kirksville.

Pershing's son, who died in June, 1980, at the age of 70, was the sole survivor of a tragic fire that took the lives of his mother, Frances Warren Pershing, and three sisters, Helen Elizabeth, 8; Anne, 7, and Mary, 6. The fire occurred at their home at the Presidio, San Francisco, in August, 1915, while Pershing was on the Mexican border. Shortly before, he planned to move them to El Paso, Texas, to be closer to him. Mrs. Pershing died trying to save the girls. A black servant saved Warren. He managed to get the boy onto a roof where firemen rescued him.

It is said that the memory of this tragedy remained with Pershing, who never remarried, for the rest of his life. The Army became his family.

Pershing led that Army and the Allies, because of the fresh spirit the Americans infused into the battle, to victory on Nov. 11, 1918, a date now called Veterans Day to honor all Americans who served in all the nation's wars.

On Nov. 12, 1918, he issued this order:

"The enemy has capitulated. It is fitting that I address myself in thanks directly to the officers and

soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces who by their heroic efforts have made possible this glorious result. Our armies, hurriedly raised and hastily trained, met a veteran enemy, and by courage, discipline and skill always defeated him. Without complaint you have endured incessant toil, privation and danger. You have seen many of your comrades make the supreme sacrifice that freedom may live. I thank you for the patience and courage with which you have endured. I congratulate you upon the splendid fruits of victory which your heroism and the blood of our gallant dead are now presenting to our nation. Your deeds

THE GRANDFATHER IS GENERAL OF THE ARMIES JOHN J. (BLACK JACK) PERSHING. THE GRANDSON IS LT. RICHARD W. PERSHING. THE MARKERS ARE WHAT THE SENIOR PERSHING, WHO DIED AT 87 IN 1948, SAID HE WANTED OVER HIS GRAVE — A "SIMPLE G.I. STONE" EVEN THOUGH HIS RANK WAS HELD BY ONLY ONE OTHER AMERICAN, GEORGE WASHINGTON, FOR WHOM IT WAS CREATED BY CONGRESS.

will live forever on the most glorious pages of America's history..."

Here is how Pershing summarized U.S. contributions to Allied victory in his Pulitzer Prize-winning memoirs, "My Experiences in the World War."

"The assistance we gave the Allies in combat began in May with the successful attack of one of our divisions at Cantigny. This was followed early in June by the entrance into battle of the two divisions that stopped the German advance on Paris

near Chateau-Thierry salient, in which nine of our divisions participated. There was a total of approximately 300,000 American troops engaged in this Second Battle of the Marne, which involved very severe fighting, and was not completed until the Germans were driven beyond the Vesle in August. In the middle of September an army of 500,000 Americans reduced the St. Mihiel salient. The latter part of September our great battle of the Meuse-Argonne was begun, lasting through forty-seven days of intense fighting and ending brilliantly for our First and Second Armies on November 11th, after more than 1,200,000 American soldiers had participated."

How is Pershing regarded by military authorities? The noted writer, S.L.A. Marshall, himself a WWII veteran, described him like this, after listing some of his shortcomings:

"Yet, he had fundamental qualities that went far in the shaping of an army—patience, sobriety, emotional balance and an unshakable fortitude."

Although Pershing was honored as the "Iron Commander," he was not liked by all his Army colleagues. One of his most severe critics was Army chief of staff Gen. Peyton C. March, who dubbed Pershing's memoirs of the war "Alone in France."

Pershing has not been forgotten by the Army he served. Last summer at the Pentagon, Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr., dedicated the Gen. John J. Pershing Conference Room. For the ceremonies, Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr., Army chief of staff, and retired Lt. Col. Pershing, who said, "I'm proud to be here to represent my grandfather, my family, my father and all the other Pershings who have fought since 1740."

"When the last bugle is sounded, I want to stand up with my soldiers," Pershing said before his death on July 15, 1948, and what better place meet them in the hereafter than Arlington.

The Pershings—a family of warriors, typical of those who have made America great.

These Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) forestry students were recruited for WWI service and shipped out for France aboard the ill-fated HMS Tuscania, a British troopship. George Perkins, kneeling at extreme right and classmates were among survivors. (Photo courtesy of George Perkins.)

By Dan B. McCarthy

SHE WAS TUSCANIA, A PRE-WORLD WAR I LUXURY LINER CRUISING merrymakers across the Seven Seas —until WWI's combat crept across Europe. Then she became the British Navy's HMS Tuscania, His Majesty's non-luxury troop transport. Her all-white paint was covered with camouflaged grey, tan, black and white zig-zag stripes.

Thousands of American Doughboys, some seasick, crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the 840-foot Tuscania's decks.

At day's end, Feb. 5, 1918, while convoy HX-20 plied dangerous, enemy-patrolled North Channel waters between Northern Ireland and Scotland, Tuscania was among 20 transports, merchant vessels and naval escorts transporting the bulk of the 32nd Division.

Now having sighted the Irish coast, Tuscania's 2,179 members of the American Expeditionary Force longed to walk on dry land again after sailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Jan. 27. Earlier, they embarked from Hoboken, N.J.

As Herbert A. Gustafson, 17th Co., 20th Engineers, would write: "We were safe now, we thought, and the next morning we expected to arrive in the harbor of Liverpool."

Dusk settled over the convoy east-bound without apparent trouble at 12 knots. However, in his UB-77 German submarine, Capt. Wilhelm Meyer, his periscope holding Tuscania in sight, ordered the firing of two torpedoes. The first missed; the second buried itself at 6:45 p.m. between the engineroom and stoke hole, then exploded. A third torpedo crossed Tuscania's stern and sped harmlessly toward open sea.

Thirty-nine coal stokers perished. Only one escaped; he had gone out seconds earlier for a drink of water.

The following day, 310 men, mostly



When Torpedoes Struck

American soldiers plus ship's crew victims, were reported killed or missing after Tuscania, settling stern heavy, her bow pointing like a monument toward the night sky, slipped below the waves at 9:40 p.m. She rested at 300 feet on the bottom of Rathlin Sound seven miles north of the Irish shore.

Gustafson wrote: "Like a wounded bird of the flock, Tuscania's whistle shrieked its call of distress, as if to give voice to her pain." Meyer reported later that UB-77 had picked up those distress signals.

Tuscania was the first WWI sinking of a troopship carrying Americans overseas. Across the U.S. people on streets exclaimed: "Remember the Tuscania!" Twenty years earlier, "Remember the Maine!" was the Spanish-

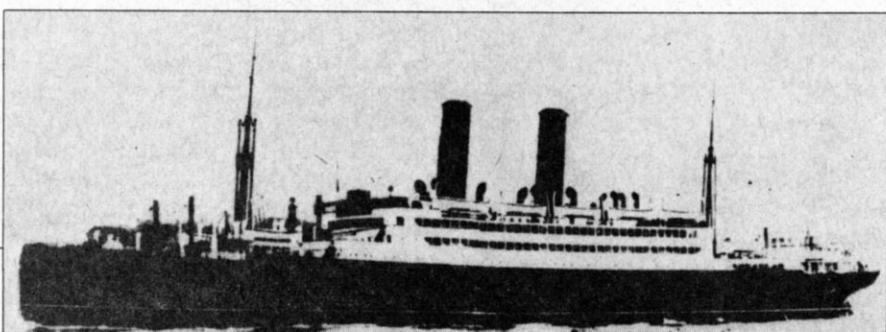
American War cry. After both losses, volunteer enlistments soared.

Edward A. Ueeck, 88, secretary of the HMS Tuscania's Last Man's Club, says that as of Jan. 1, 1985, only seven known WWI veterans remain who were rescued from Tuscania. Ueeck is a VFW Life Member of Post 4747, Vernon, Texas.

The other six are George Perkins, St. Helens, Ore.; Battie C. Allen, Redmond, Ore.; William D. Lawrence, Bemidji, Minn.; Alvin Gamsch, King, Wis.; J.E. Babbitt, Victor, Mont., and John Swenderzynski, Wild Rose, Wis.

Of that long night of warfare terror, Ueeck recalls: "I was on B-deck, milling around with about 40 other guys near the stern mast when the torpedo hit. I remember the funnel-shaped blaze and the blast, then I

HMS Tuscania, British troopship transporting American soldiers, sunk off Ireland by a German submarine on Feb. 5, 1918.





blacked out. I must have ricocheted off a stack of 10-man cork rafts. I came to, and my body ached. Wreckage was still falling near me where I was sprawled flat on the deck at the starboard railing. Not another man was in sight.

"I had the horrible feeling that everyone had abandoned ship. Heading for my lifeboat station, I stumbled over my schoolmate and buddy, Glenn Diggles, lying dazed near A-deck gangway. I carried him to our lifeboat station."

Ueeck slid down a rope and boarded the destroyer rescue ship, HMS Pigeon and lay down on the deck near bunks occupied by injured men.

"A British naval officer introduced himself as Capt. Peter McClain, captain of the Tuscania," Ueeck said. "The captain pulled out a bottle of Scotch, broke the seal and took a long drink. Then he handed it down to me. I took a good Paul Bunyan drag of the whisky. When I handed it back, the captain said: 'Pass it around to the boys. It will help cheer them a bit.'"

Sixty-seven years after his Paul Bunyan libation, Ueeck said: "Should I fail to be the last man to answer the final Tuscania rollcall, my VFW comrades at Post 4747 in Vernon will carry on, and send the legendary

bottle of Scotch to that last man, who may drink a toast to all the rest of us."

Ueeck was in Co. C, 107th Supply and Ammunition Transport of the 32nd Division, the Red Arrow of Wisconsin and Michigan National Guardsmen.

"In France," he continued, "John (Swen) Swenderzynski and I were puptent mates for 16 months, camping out in some 40-plus truck parks. We moved supplies from more than 60 different railheads. Only once did Swen mention briefly that he was in

Tuscania was the first WWI sinking of a troopship carrying Americans over- seas. Across the U.S. people exclaimed: 'Re- member the Tuscania!'

one of the lifeboats that crashed against the rocky shores of Scotland.

"When I was helping with our 1978 reunion plans I made a \$5.75 phone call to Swen and asked him just where in the hell he was when we got subbed. He had volunteered for ship's mess duty and also was assigned to a

starboard stern lifeboat station. When the sub's third torpedo passed, a near miss, Swen said he watched air bubbles rising from its harmless course.

"I asked him how close it came to us and he said: 'About a rod.' That's only 16 and a half feet."

Swenderzynski's lifeboat was lowered with 127 men aboard. They were not spotted by any of the rescue people. Their boat smashed against the Scottish coast in heavy seas. Only 41 soldiers made it beyond the rocks. The others were lost.

More than 100 bodies washed ashore beneath sheer cliffs on the Isle of Islay, home of some of the best Scotch whisky. Ninety-six soldiers of the 6th Battalion of the 20th Engineers were buried in several Scottish cemeteries. Some 400 mourning residents from miles around prepared funeral services. Several village women sewed the U.S. Flag used during military rites. That Flag is now on exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Following WWI, Tuscania casualties were reburied in America near next-of-kin. According to his family's wishes, however, the body of Pvt. Roy Mancaster, who was in the 6th Battalion's D Co., and that of an unknown soldier, washed ashore months after the Tuscania was lost, remain buried in Kilnaughton Cemetery on the Isle of Islay. A nearby memorial on a seashore cliff can be seen yet by passengers aboard vessels sailing to and from America.

As one Isle of Islay resident said at the dedication: "The monument is

Gun trucks "Mr. Nice" and "Eve of Destruction" prepare to move out.



The 57th Transportation Co. may have been responsible for more Communist deaths through ammo supply and "at the scene" fighting than any other single Army unit that served in the northern section of South Vietnam.

BUT WE WOULD HAVE lost it all had it not been for the battle wagons and their crews who accompanied all the convoys. They were themselves vulnerable and were special first targets for the Viet Cong. One-quarter to one-half inch thick steel enclosed the sides and cabs of the trucks, but we soon learned that those Chinese Communist rockets would go right on through and explode inside the vehicle.

The Army gun trucks protected our vulnerability as best they could; one would be in front of the convoy of 10 to 15 trucks, and one would bring up the rear. On larger convoys we sometimes had a third Battle Wagon protecting our mid-section.

The gun trucks were decked out in all manner of armament. Some had single .50 caliber machine guns supplemented by dual M-60s; others preferred quad 50s, quad 60s, or duals placed on the sides and ends of the truck box. We never regretted bringing the M-79 grenade launcher along either. Incidentally, we took empty tin cans from C-rations and mounted them just under the M-60

shell intake, so the shells would enter the M-60 laterally rather than in the down-up pattern. This virtually eliminated jamming.

On convoy, we always kept a distance of at least 10 to 15 truck-lengths from each other in case one of us got hit and blew up, and we drove in the tracks of the truck in front of us to avoid land mines. The lead gun truck usually bore the blast of the land mines; they were always the first to know.

Every driver carried an M-16 or other fast firing weapon on trips out of Quang Tri and Dong Ha. I had a CAR-15 which I came to know and love. Others carried .45 automatics or those little "grease guns" that look like a piece of plumber's pipe with a clip in it. But for our purposes, nothing could beat the M-16 or the CAR-15.

The Nam Nomads were a key element in the push into Laos, targeting Communist strongholds and staging areas in March, April and May, 1971. We transported ammunition, food and Army infantry units to Khe Sanh and to the Laotian border. Contrary to some accounts,

we even made our way past the granite marker which delineated the border.

By late February and early March, 1971, our main headquarters had been relocated to Camp Vandegrift, just a few miles east of Khe Sanh. It was our staging area, firebase and heli-pad along muddy Highway 1, which runs from north to south, from Hanoi to Saigon, and parallel to the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

I can still remember sitting in front of my two-man bunker one April afternoon, smoking cigarettes with the guys and watching Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops being trucked to the fighting at the border. Later in the day, we watched as more of the same trucks brought the soldiers back. But this time they were stacked on top of one another. An entire 20-truck convoy, with as many as 500 ARVN bodies, torn and mangled beyond any recognition, were driven past our position, as we stood by wondering what had gone wrong.

Because of mines, ambushes and the rugged mountain roads, there were never enough trucks to go around for all the drivers. Sometimes as many as half the trucks were under repair. So we were rotated for duty on the battle wagons, and most of us got a taste of driving and defending the trucks which supplied the Army defenses. Because there were never enough trucks to go around, we usually had a Shotgun rider for each truck in the convoy. His job was to detect and eliminate any possible threat to the trucks and their cargo.

When a truck in front of us was hit, it resembled a small nuclear blast, especially when it carried powder canisters, and we had to drive around the burning wreckage, with the pedals to the metal and rifles spewing lead into the underbrush and treelines on either side of the road.

We could, under most conditions, defend ourselves pretty well, but sometimes the orders would come

down, and we would have to make a delivery via night convoy. During these times the enemy's plans would come together. It was the Viet Cong's dream—a slow-moving convoy of U.S. Army trucks with lights on and laden with high explosives to be used against them and no air support.

We were hit on many of those occasions when we ventured out at night, the gun trucks would get it first. Then the enemy would concentrate on one ammo-bearing truck at a time. Since the battle wagons were down, the Viet Cong had more than enough time to do their work on us. Though they had the advantage in all areas, they were never able to wipe out a convoy, because the gunships were always in the air and it did not take them long to reach the scene after the gun-trucks had radioed that we had made contact. Meanwhile, we had to stay with our trucks when all avenues of escape were cut off and fire at the sound of weapon reports and muzzle flashes.

The 57th Transportation Co. may have been responsible for more Communist deaths through ammo supply and "at the scene" fighting than any other single Army unit that ever served in the northern section of South Vietnam. I like to think that I contributed personally to ruining more than one Communist's day.

That was 14 years ago, but I'll never forget my comrades of the 57th at whom daily rocket and mortar attacks, sniping and ground attacks were directed. Those guys slept in soggy wet sleeping bags, on the dark dank floors of sand bags and holes-in-the-ground bunkers in every firebase from Da Nang to North Vietnam. They, with their own blood, sweat and tears, earned the nickname *Nam Nomads* and fought the incredibly good fight. ■

About the Author

The writer, who now lives in Denver, served in the 4th Division and the 57th Transportation Co. in Vietnam in 1970-71.

"We transported

ammunition, food and

Army infantry units to

Khe Sanh and to the

Laotian border."

Author John D. Krueger stands near bunker along highway Number One, at Camp Vandegrift, 1971.



Halley's Comet was recorded on its visit in 684 and included in the Nuremberg Chronicles in 1493.

By Cyril J. O'Brien

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, HALLEY'S COMET IS PLUNGING INTO OUR inner solar system at an incredible speed—more than 12 miles a second on what seems certainly a head-on collision course with earth.

If you could watch Halley's as astronomers do, and you didn't know it was the great comet that returns in its elliptical orbit to swing by the earth every 76 years, you'd have reason to fear an imminent cataclysmic encounter spelling the end of the world.

There's no wonder then why that very sight witnessed by naked eyes as the comet was dramatically closer sent populations scurrying into caves or cowering in churches to await the final holocaust of fire and brimstone.

This time when Halley's comes back to be seen, depending on where you are between November and April, Halley's should cause much less of a stir than in days of yore. It should be clear enough and with a brilliance more pronounced than the brightest stars in the Big Dipper, except at certain times when it is expected to flare up briefly. Scientists are slow to be exact about such things, but don't expect any pyrotechnics, or even a big streak across the sky like high altitude aircraft contrails. You likely will not see it in daylight; few comets have been that grandiloquent. This time Halley's Comet will not be dramatic. You may even need binoculars.

Science is prepared to do more than just observe Halley's from hilltops this time, however. More than 1,000 scientists from a host of countries, and satellites, space borne sensors and telescopes, even observations from deep space, will seek in this periodic interloper perhaps some of the very secrets of creation.

Halley's Comet is actually a great snowball some three miles across

Halley's Comet Begins Flyby

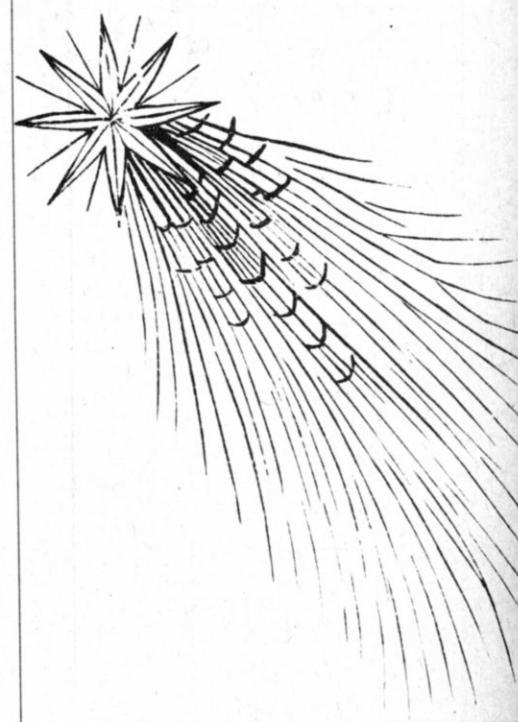
containing rock particles, frozen gases and dust. It carries along a great gaseous cloud (coma) tens of thousands of miles around the head (nucleus). The cloud is full of spun-off or sublimed materials from the head, speeding in front of a vast tail filled with the products of the snowball and streaming out millions of miles.

In the icy depths of that snowball, science hopes to find the very mate-

**Halley's Comet is actually
a great snowball some
three miles across
containing rock particles,
frozen gases and dust.**

rial of which the solar system was composed. Comets, say the scientists, are actually smaller batches of matter left over from the forming of the planets. That would make Halley's at least five billion years old, possibly even older than the sun itself.

"Actually," explains Dr. John C. Brandt, chief of the laboratory for



astronomy and solar physics of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, "the sun's radiation has caused comet surfaces to sublime, removing outer coatings but leaving behind materials that were there when the comet or the solar system came to be. So what we find out there is what was present at creation—at least of our solar system. Up to now, the coma has so shrouded the comet as to keep it a genuine mystery. This will no longer be the case."

Five spacecraft launched specifically to probe Halley's will converge on the comet. They'll pass through the coma and the tail, and skirt dangerously close to the speeding nucleus. All of this will happen just after perihelion in March. As Halley's nears the sun, the growing heat will free more and more of the material frozen for eons in the icy head. Instruments in satellites will be there to observe, examine and identify it all.

There will be two Russian Vega satellites, largest in the comet fleet. One will be peripheral to the nucleus and the other will run through the coma and close to the head itself.

Two Japanese spacecraft (MST-A and Planet A) will skirt the comet closely to explore the outermost regions of Halley's where the comet meets the solar wind or the radiation from the sun. The Japanese explorers will even follow the comet as it disappears on the other side of the sun.

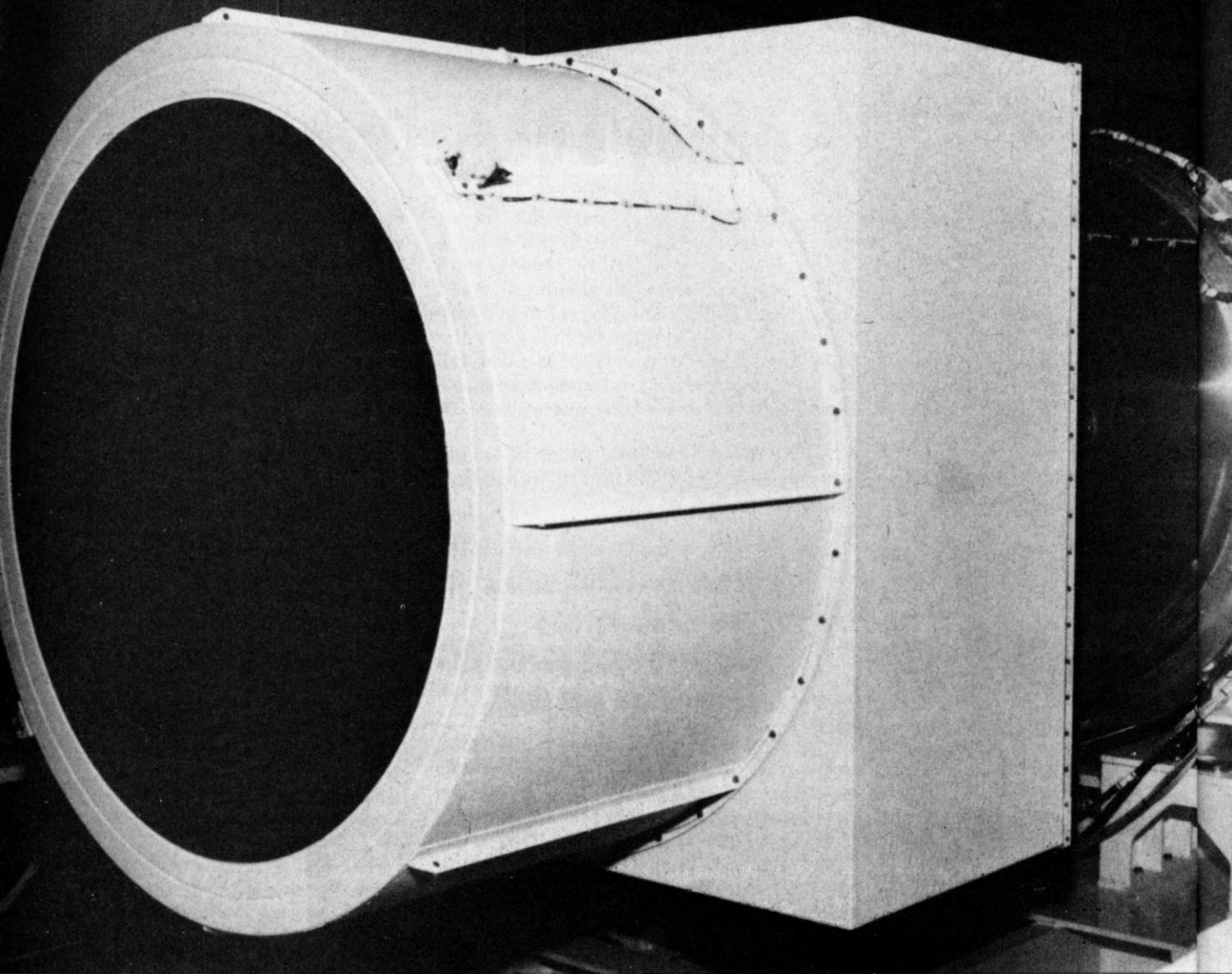
Dr. Arthur Davidesen, of Johns Hopkins University, readies the telescope that will observe Halley's Comet from a perch in the Space Shuttle cargo bay.

The European Space Agency spacecraft is called Giotto, named for the Florentine artist who painted an impression of Halley's return he saw in 1301. It will cross into the coma only a scant 300 miles ahead of the nucleus. Giotto will carry 10 experiments, including a television camera, to give the world the first inside pictures of this cold and mysterious wanderer that is said to have affected the Battle of Hastings when it appeared in 1066. Of course, sci-

tists look at the comet for all kinds of chemical and physical properties, and when they put it all together, we should have a better idea of where we all came from.

Don't count on the spacecraft coming back, however. Those tiny grains of sand traveling at great velocities with the cloud could easily pierce vital parts of the spacecraft and destroy or disable it.

Actually, 1985-86 will be a big year for comet exploration. NASA thinks



we may be beginning what may be the most fruitful such study of all time. NASA went to another comet before the international encounter with Halley's. Dr. Rober Farquhar, of NASA, has set up a program in which he recommended a sun explorer satellite to intercept the comet called Giacobini-Zinner that came by us in September. It gave the U.S. the first crack at examining a comet close up. What's more Giacobini-Zinner could provide something of a

comet laboratory. It returns to us every six years.

Where do comets come from? There is a place in distant space about 50,000 times the distance between the earth and the sun. It may well contain 100 billion comets. Occasionally a passing star will tug a comet from the shell area and put it into orbit bringing it closer to the sun. The sun melts off some particles in the nucleus, creating a coma cloud and tail. The comet then continues its orbital journey, approaching the sun every so many years until the journeyer is melted down or splits into pieces. Something like this will eventually happen to Halley's.

And who was Halley? Edmund Halley, a contemporary of Sir Isaac Newton, the 18th century scientist and philosopher, determined that the appearance of certain comets was actually only one comet returning again and again. He predicted this one comet would return in 1758. He died in 1742 before he could witness the truth of his prediction.

Since 240 BC, Halley's Comet has had its influence on man's anxiety and his history. It caused one Chinese emperor to abdicate. It was registered on the famous 11th century Bayeux Tapestry in France, which depicts the Norman Conquest of England. The great comet was supposed to bring bad news for Harold, the defending Saxon king. It did. He was killed as the comet appeared and as William the Conqueror invaded England in the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Halley's even had an effect on Mark Twain. He often remarked that he was born Nov. 30, 1835, when the comet appeared, and he would "go with it." He missed by a little. He died on April 21, 1910, and the comet appeared shortly afterward and stayed for several months. Writing in the February-March, 1985, American Heritage, Coley Taylor, who, as a child lived near Twain in Redding, Conn., recalled, "We children used to watch the beautiful new thing in the heavens with its long tail filling the

evening sky. For us it was Mark Twain's star."

The current return of Halley's was first observed on Oct. 16, 1982, from Mount Palomar Observatory in California while still a billion miles away. This time, it will come within 39 million miles of earth, not nearly so close as in its last appearance in 1910 when the comet was only 14 million miles away.

Just as today, science in 1909-10 was making some conjectures and providing surprising information as the comet neared and swung by. Comets, scientists said then (and still say), could well have been a major source of organic or living materials in the atmospheres of terrestrial planets. Some cometary molecules may well have been the precursors of terrestrial life.

The 1909-10 Halley's appearance was easily seen by even casual observers. Scientific observations were made by ground-based sensors (perhaps some balloons) and photographic means. Superstition, however, still existed even in that late day. Many non-scientists feared that the tail through which the earth was slated to pass would spread disease or worse. On May 18, 1910, the earth indeed did have an "encounter" with the tail and either just missed or passed through its outer fringes. Headlines in the press said: "IN COMET'S TAIL ON WEDNESDAY" . . . "CHICAGO IS TERRIFIED" . . . "SIX HOURS TONIGHT IN COMET'S TAIL" . . .

The night came and passed and nothing happened. Children went to school the next day and all the roses had their same glory. It was a bit disappointing. When Halley's departs next April or so for its ever so distant journey to the reaches of our solar system, it will not be back until 2061. Those of us still around can compare notes.

About the Author

Cyril O'Brien was long associated with Johns Hopkins University and is a frequent contributor to VFW Magazine.



Post 924, Anniston, Ala., has something extra to be proud of these days. Wanda Johnson, who has worked for the Post for the past six years, has her first 45 rpm single recording out and her second was scheduled for April. She was discovered by Ben Hollingsworth, owner of Holley Records and Te-Kelly Publishing Co., who stopped by Post 924 as Wanda began singing with one of the local bands.

Post 3917 and its Auxiliary, Cold Springs, Colo., presented a check for \$2,000 for a new television for the new wing at the VA medical center in Denver and a \$350 check for a wide variety of personal items for the veteran patients. Accepting the checks was James K. Donechie, medical center director. Making the presentation were Department Commander Tony A. Wasinger, State Inspector Ray Perry and several Post and Auxiliary officers.

A plaque noting the new name, Eagle Point National Cemetery, formerly the National Cemetery in Eagle Point, Ore., was engraved recently by George Washburn, a member of **Post 2302**, and Vic Overman, a member of **Post 1833**, and Paul Topkin, a VA domiciliary patient, and presented to the cemetery. They also engraved and presented two plaques bearing the names of deceased veterans whose casket Flags were donated to the cemetery's avenue of Flags. The plaques were made by Eagle Point High School students. Funds for the work were contributed by **District 7** as a District project.

More than 125 Cub and Brownie Scouts have learned about the VFW, the VFW National Home and the Flag, thanks to a program conducted by **Post 5698**, Brick Town, N.J. Included in the program is trooping of the Colors by the Color Guard, a lecture on the Flag by Post Commander Robert Shannon, showing of a film about the Liberty Bell and Flag, and talks on the VFW and National Home. Each child also receives several patriotic souvenirs of the visit to the Post Home.

An Eagle Scout, Douglas Barnhart, whose troop is sponsored by **Post 764**, McMurray, Pa., is only the fourth Boy Scout to be chosen to take part in a trip to Antarctica, conducted by the National Science Foundation with the support of the U.S. Coast Guard. He is a pre-medical student at Johns Hopkins University. His participation will include working as a member of the Polar Star ice-breaker crew.

Post 2535, Lockport, N.Y., is still talking about Memorial Day of 1984 when it was instrumental in dedication of a plaque honoring the area's Vietnam War dead. The plaque contains the names of 26, all thoroughly researched to ensure their accuracy. The 12-member committee required 18 months of painstaking study. "It was the finest tribute to deceased veterans in this community in nearly 40 years," writes then Post Commander Edward Rich. Donors of the plaque were Mr. and Mrs. Farcione.

In Delaware, Ohio, **Post 3297** was responsible, with another veterans' organization, for erection of a monument to area men from Vietnam, plus one missing in action. Their names are engraved on the \$3,000 memorial dedicated on the courthouse square.

The annual Harbor Days parade in Elk Rapids, Mich., were enlivened by the presence of **Post 829's** Buddy Poppy queen, Carolyn DeMeyers, 5, escorted by Clifford Lane, an 85-year-old WWI veteran. "Never too young," remarked Post Adjutant John Coughlan.

Post 323, Stillwater, Minn., has received a clock made by Bruce Webber, a lifer at Stillwater State Prison, in appreciation for the community activities work done by the Post. Webber became aware of the Post's projects through then Post Jr. Vice Commander Jim Cook, an electrician at the prison.

Post 9830, Damascus, Va., has presented the Town Hall with a U.S. Flag and a \$100 donation to buy equipment for the Police Department.

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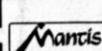
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VFW IN ACTION



Post 2250, Hornell, N.Y., raises the POW/MIA flag to call attention to this unsettled issue left over from Vietnam War. The flag was presented to Hornell Mayor Richard Dunning. Other veterans' groups joined the Post in the program.



An easy sale was completed when Sarah Parker, 2½, and her sister Laurie, 3½, bought Buddy Poppies from Commander Alex Kucirka, of Post 994, Bristol, Conn.



Past Commanders Club of Colorado new flag is displayed by Past President C.A. Quimby and President Albert C. Weimer. Among its activities, the club helps its members continue their VFW interest.

When Post 5890, Rio Rancho, N.M., marked Loyalty Day, it was also the occasion of its mortgage burning ceremony. Commander Anthony J. Eckel and Quartermaster Anthony A. Leyowitz prepare to burn the mortgage. Mayor David E. Bruen issued a Loyalty Day proclamation for the Post.



Commander Bill Estey, of Post 8120, of Poinciana, Fla., shakes hands with Jim Hendrix, a Medal of Honor recipient, at a veteran's grave in Evergreen Cemetery following Veterans Day exercises there.

Gloria Christopher, executive director of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, presents a certificate of appreciation to Quartermaster Gen. Herbert Irwin and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., for VFW aid in informing the group's members on status of legislation affecting them.

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Edward Fischer
New Jersey



George S. Smith
New York



Americo DiLoretto
Pennsylvania



Norbert Melia
Rhode Island



Alfred Gordon
Vermont

Pictures of Southern Conference Commanders will appear in the December issue.

National Aides-de-Camp

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, during the month of September. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

George Perry, Post 4557, Brookfield, Mo., and Curtis Gribble, Post 1445, New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Marty





Winners in the \$1,000 New Post drawing at the 86th National Convention were, seated, Missouri Department Commander C.H. Vorwerk, \$500; Arkansas Department Commander Al Roes, \$300, and Ohio Department Commander Nick Vannicelli, \$200. Standing are Post Development Director Joe Ross and National Chief of Staff George Cramer. Fifty-three new Posts were reported at the Convention.



Post 3023, Grand Rapids, Mich., reached its goal of more than 1,000 members in 1984-85. Typical of those in all VFW Posts, its members are pledged to exceed the record for 1985-86.

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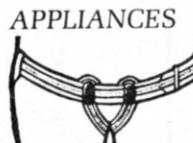
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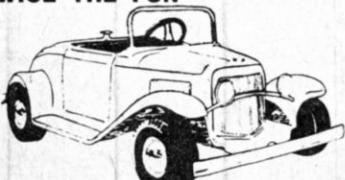
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Armistice Day, 1984, and Post 9951 in Thailand

By William V. Crabb

THEY STEP OFF WITH THE MUSIC and again follow their country's colors. Once they numbered 1,284, but that was 67 years ago. Time has reduced their ranks to 15.

They are veterans of the Royal Siamese Expeditionary Force that went to France in 1918 as the contribution of Siam, now Thailand, to the Allied cause.

Leading the group, a slender, active man, bearded and wearing a cluster of medals, is Les Changsone, president of the World War Comrades Association.

Today is Nov. 11, 1984, and the place is Bangkok, Thailand. Here, the day is still called Armistice Day, and its observance has been an annual event since the troops re-

turned home from World War I.

The column, consisting of a color guard, a band and the veterans, marches a short way to an attractive Thai-style monument located in the corner of a vast field, "Sanam Luang," meaning Royal Ceremonial Grounds.

The stone structure is carved in the graceful flowing lines of a Siamese temple. Mounted on a circular concrete base, the body of the monument has a niche on each of the four sides. The names of the 19 Siamese soldiers who died in Europe are engraved in Thai writing in each niche. Their comrades brought home their ashes.

The group halts in front of the monument, the colors are posted and the veterans move to one of the

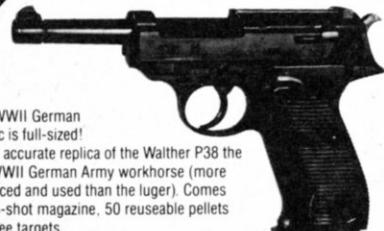
large tents nearby.

Soon Buddhist monks appear, and they file into the tent. A ceremony begins. The scent of burning joss sticks fills the air and the sonorous chanting of the monks is heard. During the service, automobiles arrive with uniformed visitors. They are the military attaches from the embassies of the World War I Allies. Each places a floral wreath at the monument. Notable among these representatives are those of France and the United States.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9951, Bangkok, is represented by Commander Leon R. Vileo, who places a wreath on behalf of the organization and then joins the 10 members who are present today.

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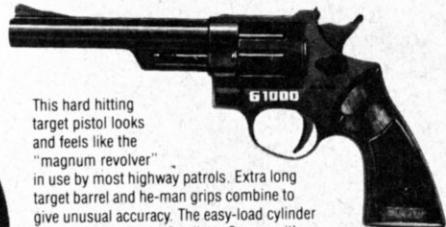
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They are seated in a tent opposite the Siamese veterans.

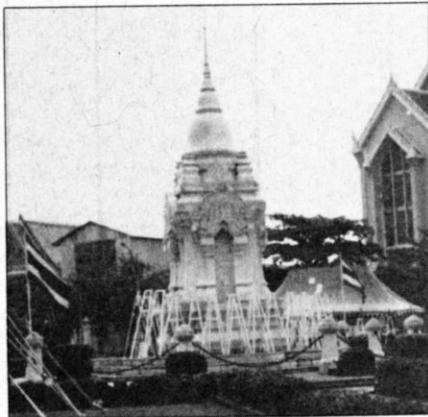
Groups from each of Thailand's armed forces arrive and place wreaths around the monument.

This is monsoon season. A sudden squall blows up, briefly halting the proceedings. It soon subsides and the ceremony resumes.

The Buddhist services conclude, and the monks depart. The veterans leave the tent and line up along the walk leading from the road to the monument. The VFW contingent lines up opposite them.

The band sounds "Attention" as a cortege of official cars draws up in the roadway. The Royal Anthem is played and the king's representative, retired Gen. Sanran Bhadayakoon,

alights. He stops, greets and shakes hands with each of the veterans. He



World War I Monument, Sanam Luang, Bangkok.

then places two wreaths at the front of the monument, one on behalf of the king and one on behalf of the queen.

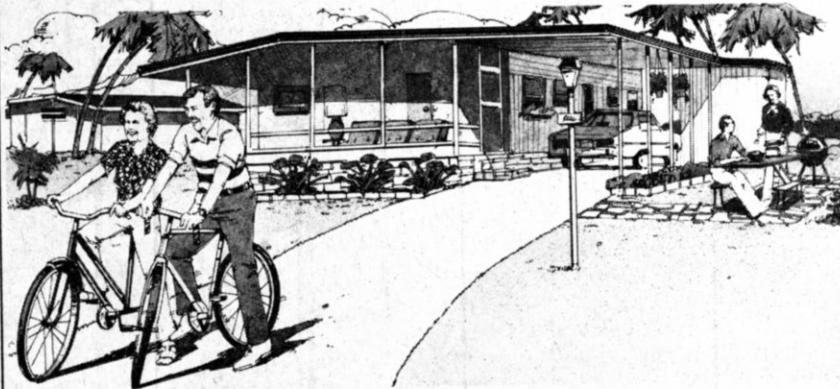
The general then faces about and returns along the walk. He shakes hands and speaks to the VFW members.

The band again plays the Royal Anthem and Gen. Sanran departs with his staff.

Next the color guard takes up the colors. The band and the old soldiers fall in. Proud and erect, they march away.

In a few years this annual ceremony will be without them. The last gallant Siamese volunteer of that long-ago war will have marched away for the last time. ■

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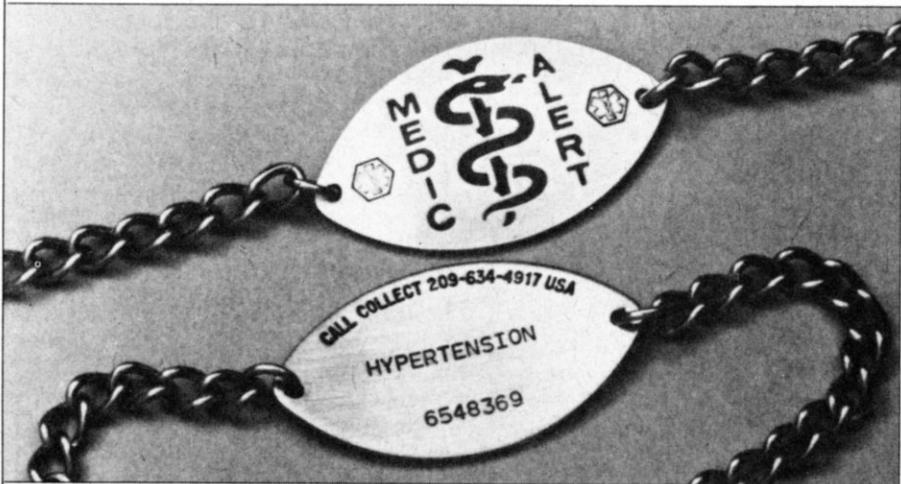
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Prevention Promises Health and Savings

By Lillian Pfaff



Medical I.D. bracelets provide vital information to emergency personnel.

PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE, the inexpensive, low tech response to the costs of high tech medical treatment, is now back in style as the best health bargain going. Younger Americans are discovering that the "apple-a-day" philosophy of their parents and grandparents means more than good health. It's also a lot cheaper than repairing a body raised on junk food and a sedentary lifestyle.

Despite the popularity of natural foods, aerobics classes and fitness clubs, millions of Americans will still have a tough time adopting more healthy habits. And health costs will continue to rise. In 1990, the U.S. will spend more on health care than the entire 1980 federal budget. And by the year 2000, more than two *trillion* dollars will be spent on health care, according to the federal government's Health Care Financing Administration.

The continuing surge in health costs, despite recent cost containment measures by government, business and the insurance industry, is the result of several factors, including an increasingly older population

that requires more health care. Nearly half of all Americans will be over 50 years old by 2005, but the nation's ability to finance a quality health care system will be tested before then.

Whether or not rising costs coupled with reduced insurance coverage will turn the health system into a scenario of "survival of the (financially) fittest" is just one of the questions policy makers are facing. Many individuals have decided not to wait for an answer to higher costs and are taking steps to prevent personal health problems from occurring.

Whether you're 45 or 70 years old, most doctors agree that it's never too late to benefit from a new, healthier lifestyle. Basic changes in diet and exercise can offer immediate improvement in one's health and can prevent major health problems from occurring.

"Lifelong habits of overeating, under-exercising, drinking too much or smoking catch up with us as we grow older," says Dr. Malcolm Todd, past president of the American Medical Association. "But the human

body has a tremendous capacity to heal itself once you take the first step toward a healthier life."

Individuals over 35 should also schedule a health checkup every year, says Todd. "Many people avoid checkups so they can save money, but the modest cost of a physical examination can save thousands of dollars by detecting potential health problems before they become financial burdens."

Todd also recommends that people evaluate the benefits of joining an emergency medical identification service.

"It's the most cost-effective way to prevent an emergency from becoming a permanent health problem," says Todd, a member of the board of directors for Medic Alert Foundation, a 30-year-old emergency medical identification service.

For the millions of Americans who have a medical condition, such as diabetes or heart trouble, that could affect treatment during an emergency, a medical identification service provides protection. It helps emergency medical personnel diagnose and treat victims who are unconscious or unable to articulate their medical condition.

For example, Todd's nonprofit Medic Alert Foundation provides a service based on three components: an identification bracelet or necklace, a wallet card and a 24-hour hotline to a computerized emergency medical information data bank.

Emergency personnel treating a member who is unable to speak need only check the identification emblem to find the patient's special condition engraved along with the member's ID number and the "hotline" phone number if additional information is needed. This number can be called collect from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. ■

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1. The following appointments are hereby announced: NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF: Claudio E. Trujillo, Post 61, Pueblo, Colo.; T.D. Culpepper, Post 5032, Macon, Ga.; Leonard Lover, Post 94, Honolulu, Hawaii; Jerry Barber, Post 4900, Emmett, Idaho; Richard Lombard, Post 3789, Florien, La.; John P. Riley, Post 6712, Revere, Mass.; Richard Mabe, Post 257, El Dorado Springs, Mo.; Charles Larsen, Post 1116, Helena, Mont.; William D. Wilson, Post 7686, Alamogordo, N.M.; Harry Adams, Post 6088, Washington, N.C.; Al Shipman, Post 8798, Eufaula, Okla.; W.R. Harris, Post 1970, Nashville, Tenn.; John Nicholson, Post 573, Clarksburg, W.Va.; and Lyle Habel, Post 5274, Platteville, Wis. ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL: J. Wesley Berry, Post 807, Boulder, Colo.; Monjet Higginbotham, Post 5456, Elberton, Ga.; Aloysius S. Spencer, Jr., Post 3850, Wailuku, Hawaii; John H. Davis, Post 9141, Soda Springs, Idaho; Vincent P. Reed, Jr., Post 6712, Revere, Mass.; Kenneth Robinson, Post 5675, Odessa, Mo.; Delmar Horner, Post 2986, Polson, Mont.; William R. Marks, Post 3280, Clovis, N.M.; Frank McIntosh, Post 2401, Beaufort, N.C.; M.W. Welliver, Post 288, Akron, Ohio; Charles Ray Horne, Post 1857, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Otha M. Kerr, Post 1990,

Greeneville, Tenn.; and Morris Lemaster, Post 1064, Huntington, W.Va. NATIONAL AIDES-DE-CAMP, MEDAL OF HONOR CLASS: Drew Dix, Post 9785, Eagle River, Alaska; William Badgers, Post 1928, Concord, Calif.; Bernard R. Fisher, Post 10444, Boise, Idaho; Charles A. MacGillivray, Post 6536, S. Boston, Mass.; Hershel W. Williams, Post 7048, East Fairmont, W.Va.; and Stanley Bender, Post 1064, Huntington, W.Va.

2. Attention is called to the return of organization exempt income tax (Form 990). An annual return on Form 990 is required of each Post exempt from tax under Section 501 (a) of the Code. If gross receipts are \$25,000 or less the Internal Revenue Service asks that *only* the heading on page 1 be completed, being sure to check Box B, and send it to the service center in your area. Gross receipts includes income from all sources, including membership dues, liquor or restaurant receipts. In some cases, some of this may be "unrelated business income," in which case filing of Form 990-T may be required.

This return must be filed on or before the 15th

continued on page 48

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Guarantee: If upon re-
ceipt I do not choose to
wear the slacks, I may
return them within 30
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MEMBER BENEFITS

VFW Post Accident Insurance

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL figures show accidents kill most Americans from 1 to 38, and are the fourth leading cause of death among Americans of all ages. Eleven persons die every hour as a result of accidents, and 1,030 are injured — that's one every four seconds.

If it takes you five minutes to read this article, at least one person will have died and no fewer than 85 will have become disabled by an accidental injury.

These statistics prove that being careful isn't always enough. Accidents do happen at work and play and especially at home. If you have escaped accidental injury so far, you may not realize how devastating the cost can be, especially if you lose a limb or your eyesight.

Treatment, rehabilitative therapy and prosthetic devices all are costly. When you figure your income is reduced or even lost while you recover, these costs, coupled with day-to-day household expenses, can become a crushing burden on your family.

If you don't survive an accident, how well can your family get along without your income? Chances are they would be faced with the same financial hardship so many families experience when the breadwinner suddenly becomes an accident victim.

A protection plan National Headquarters would like members to take full advantage of is the VFW-sponsored Post Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Plan available to the whole membership of a Post.

The Post Accident Plan is an all-risk, 24 hour-a-day protection plan that pays benefits for death and dismemberments resulting from accidents at home, work, or almost anywhere you go. It pays double benefits for death resulting from an accident in or on property owned or leased by the VFW, or anywhere else while engaged in an activity sponsored and supervised by proper authority of the VFW.

It provides benefits for loss of life, limb, eyesight or thumb and index

finger of the same hand. It is available to the entire Post membership for just \$1.65 a member per year.

The plan is fully endorsed and recommended for every VFW Post. It has earned the Official Seal of Approval for quality, fair pricing and service after the sale as an outstanding plan at exceptionally low cost. There are no age limits and every VFW member is eligible for coverage as long as the entire Post enrolls for protection.

If your Post does not have the VFW Sponsored Post Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan and you are interested in the valuable protection it provides, ask your Post Quartermaster about getting coverage for your Post membership. ■

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please allow 6 - 8 weeks for delivery

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- Check for Insurance. For 40¢ per item, item(s) lost or damaged will be replaced.

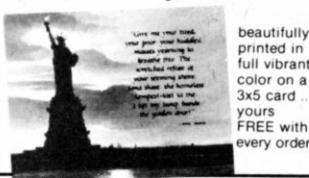
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Announcing a PRIVATE SALE for readers of VFW

The 5-piece Morgan Silver Dollar Collector's Set that had sold for \$250 is now available for the special low price of just \$98.00 per set.

For The Next 2 Weeks Only!

Because we value your business and want you as a customer, we are making an unprecedented SPECIAL OFFER on our beautiful five piece Morgan Silver Dollar Collector's Set for just \$98.00 per set. Here are 8 good reasons why you must take advantage of this opportunity now:

1. PRICE BREAK! Only a few years ago we were selling our five Morgan Silver Dollar Sets for \$250.00 per set—so you save more than twice as much!

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3. NO LONGER IN CIRCULATION—Dated from 1878 to 1904, these coins have become so popular that collectors and investors have been hoarding them for years. As a result, along with the fact that millions of these coins have been melted down for their silver content, there are no longer any Morgan Silver Dollars in circulation.

4. A MONEY SAVING OFFER! Now, due to a special purchase of these historic coins, we are able to make them available to you in this money saving offer. However, due to market fluctuations, we can guarantee this offer for the next 2 weeks only.

5. INCREASED VALUE OVER LAST 10 YEARS—Silver Dollar coins in general have increased in value over ten times in the last ten years. Some Morgan Silver Dollars sell for as much as \$20,000 and one in prime mint condition recently sold for \$42,500.



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day of the fifth month after the end of the Department's accounting period. Requests for extension of time to file may be made by submitting Form 2758, Application for Extension of Time to File.

If a Post fails to file the return on or before the due date, or the extended due date, a penalty of \$10 for each day the return is late (not to exceed \$5,000) is imposed. . . unless it can be shown that the failure was due to a reasonable cause.

3. Attention is called to the fact that the VFW National By-Laws provide for only one type of membership, that is active membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. There are no provisions in the National By-Laws nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Membership cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW By-Laws or Procedure.

4. All VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, can be dangerous to the financial well-being of members of unincorporated Posts. Post officers and members' personal assets can be garnished to satisfy a judgment against the Post. Incorporating under the provisions of Manual of Procedure Article 708, and the laws of the state, will release members from individual financial responsibility and only the assets of the Post are then available to satisfy a judgment. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be approved by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.

5. The attention of Post Commanders, County

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GENERAL ORDERS

Council and District Commanders, and Inspecting Officers is directed to Section 703, Manual of Procedure, Bonds. Each accountable officer of this organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand/in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash.

6. All officers should have current copies of National By-Laws, Department By-Laws and Rituals. Copies of the 1986 Revised Edition of the Constitution, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are now available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department, National Headquarters.

7. All Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure, Control of Units, requires any activity, unit or club sponsored, conducted or operated by a Post, County Council, District or Department be at all times under the direct control of the Post, County Council, District or Department as appropriate. All Commanders should ensure that all of the provisions of Section 709 are enforced.

8. The attention of Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103, Manual of Procedure which prescribes the manner in which application for membership will be handled. Application for membership of new, reinstating or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting. No Post, County Council, District, Department or National officer, or any other member, has authority to reject the application of a person who is eligible for membership.

9. The attention of Post Commanders and Quartermasters is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duties of Quartermaster, with regard to Dues Reserve Funds. The Quartermaster is required to maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than one-half of the Post's part of the current year's dues paid by each member prior to July 1. Included therein shall be not less than one-half of the per capita

continued on page 50



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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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continued from page 49

tax refunded annually to Posts for Life Members, as set forth in Section 111, Manual of Procedure.

10. The attention of all units is called to Section 1101 of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which provides for the formation and control of the Ladies Auxiliary. This Section provides that each unit of the Auxiliary shall be under the control of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars but shall be permitted to function in accordance with the National Ritual, By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the Ladies Auxiliary.

In addition to provisions of Auxiliary By-Laws, solicitation of funds or donations by Auxiliary units including contracts with fund-raising organizations for greeting card, calendar and/or label programs shall be subject to approval and ratification by the governing body of the corresponding unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

11. The names and locations of the following Posts have been changed: Frauenberg Post 10614, Frauenberg, West Germany to Strassburg Post 10614, Idar-Oberstein, West Germany; Bardstown Post 6545, Bardstown, Ky. to Nelson County Memorial Post 6545, Boston, Ky.

12. Correction of the location of the following Post has been made: Lake Harding Post 3212, Riverview, Ala., to Valley, Ala.

13. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 3512 and 3729 consolidated as Post 3729, Township of Long Beach N.J.; Posts 4049 and 7685 consolidated as Post 7685, Keithville, La.; and Posts 1947 and 3062 consolidated as Post 1947, Burnsville-Eagan, Minn.

14. Charters for the following Posts have been

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Shanghai, China (1944)—Seeking witnesses to accident between Navy jeep and Army truck—Mrs. Marylou (Dion) Livermore, POB 38, 47 Garwin Dr., Medway, MA 02053.

ARMY

69th Inf. Div., 879th FA. Btry. A (Battle of the Bulge)—Seeking anyone who can verify injuries I received from 105 howitzer blast and shrapnel wounds.—Dean Nelson, POB 162, Vail, IA 51465.

1/69th Armor, Co. B (Ben Het, Vietnam, 1968-69)—Seeking anyone in unit, esp. Dennis Osland (Minn.), Sgts. Eddie Burton (22), Ray Peterson (Medic Pltn.)—Jim (Doc) Luoma, 4325 Skylark Dr., Englewood, OH 45322.

773d Amphib. Trac. Bn., HQ Co.—Seeking Capt. Boller, CO—George Ruhland, 110 Cambridge, West Seneca, NY 14224.

443d FA Bn., Btry. C (Camp Davies, NC, 1943)—Seeking Capt. Pennington, Michael Beaucamano (Brooklyn), Esmel Woodward and Roy Johnson (VA)—Dennis C. Stevens, POB 316, Steele, ND 58482.

297th General Hospital (Kidderwister, England)—Seeking anyone who remembers when I was in a cast to correct back injury. The nurse in the hospital was from Brooklyn.—Samuel Amato, 1902 Stillwell Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11223.

2d Bn., 50th Parachute Inf., HQ Co. (Camp McCall, NC, WWII)—Seeking L.W. Posley, A. Angelo Ripellino, or anyone who remembers me being injured in a maneuver.—Glenn A. Pinion, 430 Dogwood Ln., Tuscaloosa, AL 35405.

87 Inf. Div., 3d Bn., HQ Co. (Rhine River, 1945)—Seeking anyone who served in the field first aid stations.—Alie B. Salis, 6256 Spring Hammock Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32226.

737th AAA Gun Bn., A Btry. (WWII, SWPA)—Seeking anyone in unit.—Malcolm Smith, POB 74, Tranquility, NJ 07879.

42d Div., 242d Service Co. (Germany, 1944-46)—Seeking the motor sgt. and the medic, Elmer Trenthauser, who checked me after my blackout.—George McDonough, RD#1, Box 142, Grindstone, PA 15442.

7th Army, 38th Tank Bn., 7th Trk. Co. and 35th Trk. Co. (Friedburg, Hesnan, and Hanau, Germany, 1952-54)—Seeking anyone in units who knew me, esp. Cpl. Whorley.—Russell Gardner, 3112 Pocahontas Ave., Point Pleasant, NJ 07842.

35th Sta. Hosp. (Oyoto, Japan)—Seeking anyone assigned or attached to the hospital, esp. while designated as a "Hepatitis Center."—Billy Marsh, 2922 Sussex Rd., Augusta, GA 30909.

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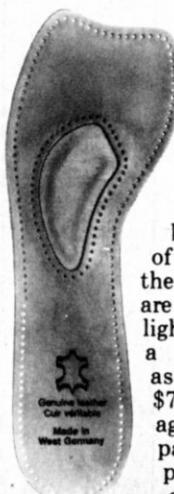
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9th Trp. Carrier Grp.—W.J. Garard, 1210 La Cruz Dr., El Paso, TX 79902.

□ February

307th ARS—Don Campbell, 6175 E Owens, Las Vegas, NV 89110.

410th Bomb. Grp. (WWII) Assn.—Orlando—Ed Dionne, POB 222, Olympia Fields, IL 60461.

A/C Class 42-B (Mather & Luke Graduates)—Costa Mesa, Calif.—R.E. Monroe, 1210 Park Newport 215, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

□ March

20th AF of S. Cal.—Dwight King, 16040 Leffingwell Rd., La Habra, CA 90603.

87th Svc. Sqdn.—Maurice Conway, 3218 N Romero, Tucson, AZ 85705.

□ April

33d Ftr. Grp. (WWII)—Ft. Walton Beach—33d Ftr. Grp. Reunion Comm., POB 104, Shalimar, FL 32579.

□ May

307th Bomb. Grp. (H)—Milwaukee—Mrs. Cena Marsh, 1923 Atkin Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84106.

□ June

77th Pursuit Sqdn. (Hamilton Field) & 303d Pursuit Sqdn. (Sarasota) (1941-45)—Joseph McCowan, 121 S Magoun St., Bloomington, IL 61701.

86th Air Depot Sqdn.—Marlboro, Mass.—Arthur Whittemore, 16501 El Mirage Rd., Lot 735, Surprise, AZ 85374-3616.

□ July

60th Trp. Carrier Grp. (WWII)—Albuquerque—John Diamantakos, 7216 Pine Tree Lane, Fairfield, AL 35064.

448th Bomb. Grp. (WWII)—Leroy Engdahl, 1785 Wexford Dr., Vidor, TX 77662.

Pueblo Army Airfield—William Feder, POB 7433, Pueblo West, CO 81007.

□ August

10th Air Depot Grp.—William Hurr, 1621 Selkirk Rd., Dayton, OH 45432.

45th Bomb. Sqdn.—Lyle Gauby, 1111 Dover Dr., Salina, KS 67401.

ALL BRANCHES

□ December

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□ May
All Navy, Marines, Coast Guard—Mel Fraagassi, 1316 Linden Ave., Deerfield, IL 60015.
PBM-Martin Pilots—Pensacola—Frank Dunigan, 1106 Brantin Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.
Yangtze River Patrol Assn.—Albuquerque—John Geyer, 1056 Bobolink Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

ARMY

□ November
700th QM Depot Co.—Arnold Smith, POB 4505, Evansville, IN 47711.
885th Engr. Avn. Bn., Co. A (WWII)—Douglas Stevens, 2944 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL 33901.
4017th QM Trk. Co. (Luzon, P.I., WWII)—Paul Kelley, 2015 N Atlanta Ave., Tulsa, OK 74110.

□ January
43d Inf. Div. Veterans Assn.—Orlando—William Head, 8139 Stockholm St., Brooksville, FL 33512.

□ February
925th Engr. Avn. Rgt.—Las Vegas—Billy Taylor, POB 106-A, Beck Bldg., 400 Travis St., Shreveport, LA 71101.

□ March
86th Ord. (HM Tank) Co. (WWII)—Phoenix—Leon O'Brien, 2571 Crystal Dr., Joliet, IL 60435.
116th Assault Helicopter Co.—Las Vegas—George Cathey, 5817 #2 E. Berry St., Fort Worth, TX 76119.

□ April
1st Div. Officers (WWI, WWII, Vietnam)—Steve Ralph, POB 9494, Arlington, VA 22209.
10th Armd. Inf. Bn., Co. A—Louisville—Jos. Kmetz, 718 Jane St., Pittsburgh, PA 15239.
11th Armd. Div. Assn.—Fresno—LeRoy Franklin, 24581 Florence, Corning, CA 960.
749th FA Bn., HQ Btry. (WWII)—R.R. Greenwood, Rt 3 Box 134, Biloxi, MS 39532.
894th TD Bn.—Orlando—Verne Clark, 4408 Stilwell Ct., New Port Richey, FL 33552.

□ May
31st Div., 124th/154th Inf. Svc. Co. (WWII)—Richmond—Joseph Wall, 3544 6th Ave., Council Bluffs, IA 51501.

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98th Chem. Comp. Co.—Earl Wickman, POB 514, Alma, MI 48801.

162th Med. Bn.—Boston—Floyd Winningham, 1637 Walnut Ave., La Puente, CA 91744.

798th MP Bn.—Cincinnati—Aaron E. Pyles, 108 Southside Dr. Campbellsville, KY 42718.

COAST GUARD

February

USS LCI (L) 326—New Orleans—France Enlow, 622 Ridgecrest, Irving, TX 75060.

April

St. Augustine, FL (WWII)—Doris Schuette, 1420 So. 12 St., Sheboygan, WI 53081.

May

USS Cambria APA-36—Cruise—Edward Pastucha, 2417 Sandy Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444.

USS George W. Campbell W-32 (1936-46)—New York—Norman Babkin, 11608 Lockwood Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20904.

USS LCI (L) 93—St. Louis—Robert McCrory, 16234 Bluff Rd., Prairieville, LA 70769.

June

USS Gen. Hugh L. Scott AP-136—Las Vegas—Bud Vetterli, 1902 E. Beck Ln., Phoenix, AZ 85022.

MARINES

November

Marine Night Fighters Assns.—Joseph Rawkins, 4182 Lodi Way, San Diego, CA 92117.

February

6th Tank Bn., 6th Marine Div., Co. A—Carl Nelson, 4606 Wesley Terr., Schiller Park, IL 60176.

March

9th Marines 2 Bn., 81mm Mortars (Da Nang, Vietnam, Jun 65-May 66)—Bob Paul, 415 Jackson Ave., Collingdale, PA 19023.

September

USMC 1st Defense Bn., Wake Island Det.—Wiley Slozman, 8955 Broadway, Apt. 10235, Houston, TX 77061.

NAVY

November

USS LST 556—Archie Kessell, 115 17th St., Huntingview, MN 55126.

48.

December

USS Keosauqua ATO-38—Hartford—William Jay, 11 Maiden Ln., Plainville, CT 06062.

February

USS PC 1174 (WWII)—Houston—A.D. Laird, POB 264, Decatur, TX 76234.

March

USS Biscayne—St. Louis—Monte Tomerlin, 16614 Willow Run, San Antonio, TX.

VS-69—Chicago—Victor Lione, 57 Middlesex Ave., Swampscott, MA 01907.

April

USS Chikaskia AO54—Wrightsville Beach, NC—Jack Gingrich, 3104 Tunnel Hill Rd., Lebanon, PA 17042.

USS Kalinin Bay CVE-68, VC-3—Theodore Gardner, 7 Elmhurst Pl., Cincinnati, OH 45208.

USS Lansdowne DD-486—Orlando—Richard Ingraham, Church & NE 2nd St., Box 326, Morning Sun, IA 52640.

USS LST 1050—Kinney Brookings, 3701 Eddy Place, Shreveport, LA 71107.

USS Luce DD-522 (WWII)—Charleston, SC—Richard Flaura, 2042 E. 63 St., Brooklyn, NY 11234.

USS Ommenay Bay CVE-79—Mobile—Raymond Gensler, 3494 Hunters Ln., Appleton, WI 54915.

USS Texas BB-35—Vincent Mossucco, 27 Barnett St., Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

May

75th Anniversary of Naval Aviation—Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL 32508-5000, Attn: 75th Anniversary HQ.

Armed Guards—San Francisco—Leonard Carlson, 5894 N. St. Albans St., Shoreview, MN 55216.

Covered Wagon Assn., USS Whipple & USS Pecos—Las Vegas—E.L. Dixon, 1075-275 Space Parkway, Mt. View, CA 94043.

US Asiatic Fleet (4-Stacker) Destroyers—Las Vegas—Dallas Widick, 4270 Summitt Dr., La Mesa, CA 92041.

USS Columbia CL-56—Joe Rice, 5604 Plata St., Clinton, MD 20735.

USS Drexler DD-741—Virginia Beach, VA—E.T. Studdard, 1715 Delwood Dr., Brownwood, TX 76801.

USS Jenkins DD-447—Donald Haas, 5711 Wilshire Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68505.

USS Lexington CV-2 Club—Sacramento—Walt Kastner, 466 Ivy Glen Dr., Mira Loma, CA 91752.

USS LST 1024—C. Lee White, 305 Virginia Ave., Crystal City, MO 63019.

USS Milwaukee CL-5—Las Vegas—Albert Hensley, 29 Roman Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314.

USS Raleigh CL-7-J. Robert Loftis, 11714 E. 2nd Ave., Aurora, CO 80010.

USS Shaw DD-373—Philadelphia—Elmo Rash, 4630 Abispo Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712.

USS Tangiers AV-8—Milwaukee—Charles Timmer, 3096 W. McConnell Rd., Freeport, IL 61032.

USS Vixen PG-53 (WWII)—Atlanta—Bill Yates, 3595 Garrards Crossing, Roswell, GA 30075.

June

USS Alaska CB-1—Buffalo—Charles St. George, 25 Leon Place, Redonia, NY 14063.

USS Beatty DD-640—Lincoln, NE—Glenn Weaver, 617 7th St., Milford, NE 68405.

USS Cowpens/CVL Sisters—Cowpens, SC—Gerald Shaw, POB 560505, Miami, FL 33156.

USS Leon APA-48 (WWII)—Charleston, SC—Sam Seidel, POB 108, Salisbury, MD 21801.

USS LST 59 (Normandy 1944-1945)—Pittsburgh—John Logue, 18 E. Marthart Ave., Havertown, PA 19083.

USS Ludlow DD-438—Washington, D.C.—Bob Javins, 537 Clark's Run Rd., La Plata, MD 20646.

USS Mattaponi AO41—Vicksburg, MS—W.S. Griffin, 5051 Canton Hgts. Dr., Jackson, MS 39211.

USS Minneapolis AA-36—San Diego—Donald Bovill, 2804 Gene Ln., Arlington, TX 76010.

USS Mississippi BB-41—Mike Hulen, POB 97, Swifton, Ark. 72471.

USS Shangri-La CV-CVA-38—Westminster, MD—Peter Kuchik, 2204 Chastleton, Michigan City, IN 46360.

USS Vicksburg CL-86—Omaha—Harold Clatterbuck, Rt. 7, Box 42, Benninton, NE 68007.

USS Hornet CV-8 (Jan 1941-Dec 1942), VT-8—Norfolk, VA—Lee Marona, 7818 N. 13th Ave., POB 35845, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

USS Woodford AKA-88—Gordon Heath, RFD 1, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

SEEKING

Seeking former comrades is published on a first-come, first-served basis. Submission forms are available from VFW Magazine, Seeking, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111.

English Field (Amarillo, 1945)—Seeking John Hood(e)—W.G. Rivers, 7440 Chapparal Dr., Shingle Springs, CA 95682.

115th AAA Gun Bn. (Mbl.), Btry. D—Reunion?—Ed Koehnen, Rt. 2, Akeley, MN 56433.

USS Mazama AE-9 (1944-47)—Robert Nelson, 6885 NE 1st Pl., Ocala, FL 32761.

USS W.A. Mann AP-112 (1943-48)—Reunion?—Gerald Bligh, 54 Fernview Ave., No. Andover, MA 01845.

USS LSM 42—Reunion?—C. Ray Johnston, MM-1, 1232 S New Haven, Tulsa, OK 74112.

45th Div., 179th Inf. Co. C—Seeking Andrew Kress (NY)—Elbert Vickers, 74 Rockaway St., Lynn, MA 01902.

1907th Ord. Ammo. Co. Avn. (WWII)—Reunion?—Gil Florence, 3861 Goildenrod St., Seal Beach, CA 90740.

814th MP Co.—Reunion?—Gunnar Pedersen, 22 Rioux Ct., Clifton Park, NY 12065.

USS LST 272 (1944-48)—Reunion?—George Burke, RD 6 Box 308H, Troy, NY 12180.

481st AAA (AW) Bn. (WWII)—Chester Lucas, 15235 Liberty Ch. Rd., Minerva, OH 44657.

USS LST 227 (1945)—Reunion?—Elvin Frank, Rt. 1 Box 163, Stanton, NE.

USS Bennington (1942), Naval Armed Guards—John Johnson, POB 4516 W Station, Meridian, MS 39304-4516.

American Div., 26th Engr., Co. D (Hill 35, Vietnam)—Steven Aronson, 1601 St. Louis Ave., Duluth, MN 55802.

Ft. Custer Reception Ctr.—Reunion?—James Partin, 6 Mercury Ln., Tamiami Vill., N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903.

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